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Edited by Sir John Hammerton

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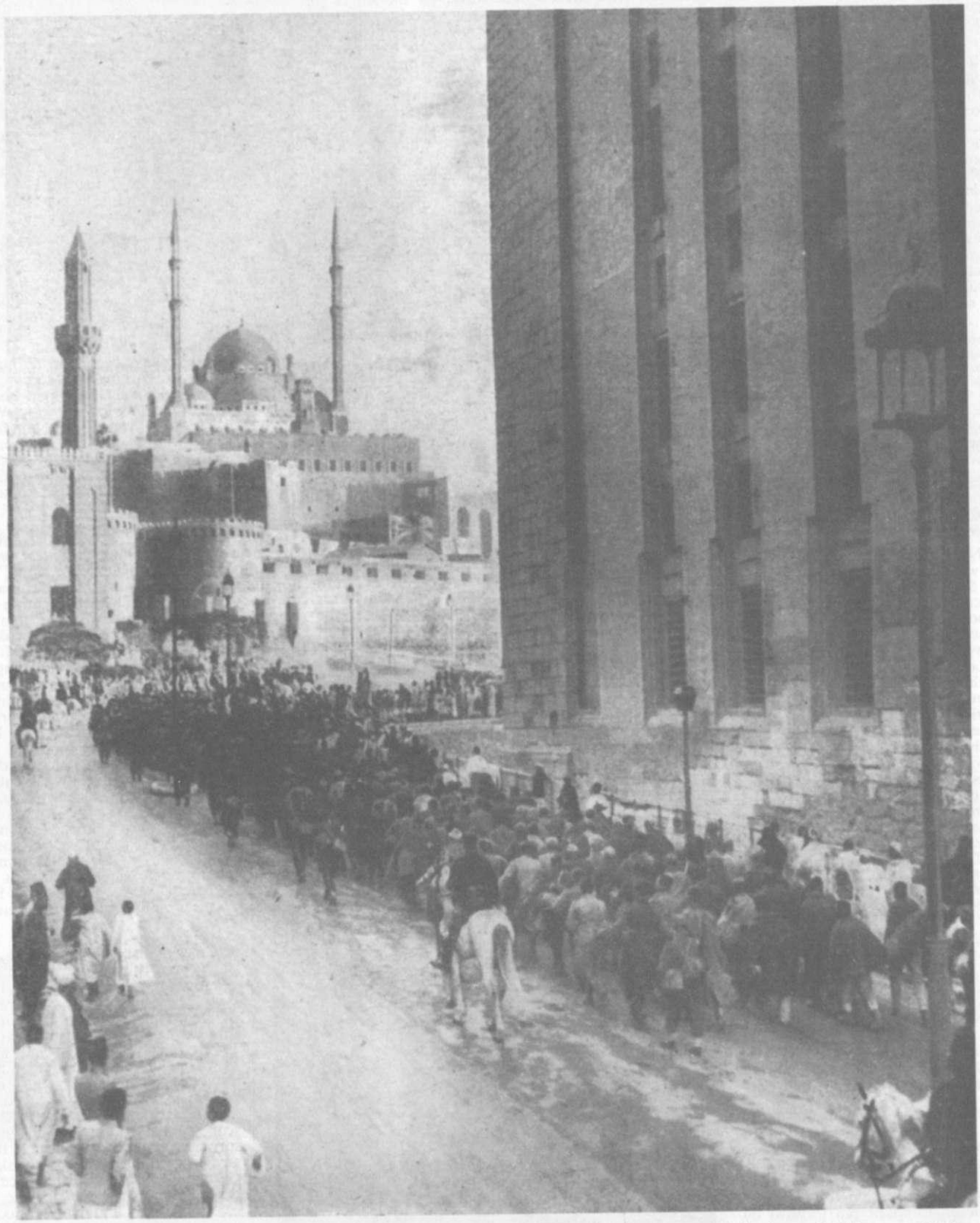

TO CAIRO FROM LIBYA come these Axis troops, not as conquerors but as prisoners. They are some of the thousands of German and Italian prisoners captured by Gen. Ritchie's 8th Army in Cyrenaica. Escorted by Scottish troops and Egyptian mounted police, these men are seen marching through the City of the Caliphs on their way to the citadel, or El-Kala, in the background, which was built by Saladin in 1166. Within the citadel stands the Mosque of Mehemet Ali, flanked by tall minarets.

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NO. 119 WILL BE PUBLISHED FRIDAY, JAN. 30

THE UNITED NATIONS DECLARE FOR FREEDOM

ON the first day of 1942 the Grand Alliance of the Democracies against the Axis powers was concluded at Washington, when the representatives of 26 nations signed a solemn declaration of mutual support and resolved to fight the war together to a successful finish.

The "Declaration By the United Nations," as it was officially styled in the published text, although historians may prefer to call it the Declaration of Washington, opens with a list of the Governments signatory thereto. Then it goes on, "Having subscribed to a common programme of purposes and principles embodied in the Atlantic Charter; and being convinced that complete victory over their enemies is essential to defend life, liberty, independence and religious freedom, and to preserve human rights and justice in their own lands as well as in other lands; and that they are now engaged in a common struggle against savage, brutal forces seeking to subjugate the world, declare:

"1.—Each Government pledges itself to employ its full resources, military or economic, against those members of the Tripartite Pact and its adherents with which such a Government is at war.

"2.—Each Government pledges itself to cooperate with the Governments signatory hereto, and not to make a separate armistice or peace with the enemies."

"The foregoing declaration may be adhered to by other nations which are or which may be rendering material assistance and contributions in the struggle for victory over Hitlerism."

No special ceremony attended the signing of what Mr. Cordell Hull, the U.S. Secretary of State, described as "one of the greatest documents in history." After President Roosevelt had signed for America and Mr. Churchill for Britain, the representatives of the other signatory states proceeded to the White House, and, with their overcoats over their arms, passed into the room of Mr. Berle, Assistant Secretary of State, where the document lay ready for their signature. Mr. Litvinov, the Soviet Ambassador, signed for Russia, and Mr. T. V. Soong, just reappointed Chinese Foreign Minister, for China. Dr. Loudon, Queen Wilhelmina's Minister in the States, signed for the Netherlands, and the British Dominions were represented by Mr. Leighton McCarthy for Canada, Mr. R. G. Casey for Australia, Mr. Frank Langstone for New Zealand, Mr. Bajpai for India, and Mr. Ralph Close for South Africa. Then, one by one, the envoys of the other nations added their signatures—of Belgium, Luxembourg, and Greece, of Norway, Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Yugoslavia, of Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama.

SWIFT on the heels of the publication of the Declaration of Washington came the announcement of the first major decision of the new Alliance. On January 3 it was announced in Washington that, as a result of proposals put forward by the United States and British Chiefs of Staffs, and on their recommendations to President Roosevelt and to Prime Minister Churchill, and with the concurrence of the Netherlands Government and the Dominion Governments concerned, the system of a unified command was to be established in the south-west Pacific area. Henceforth, all the forces in this area—the area was not precisely defined, but it was authoritatively stated to include Singapore, Malaya, the Dutch East Indies, and the Philippines—would operate under one Supreme Commander: "At the suggestion of the President, in which all concerned have agreed, General Sir Archibald Wavell has been appointed to this command." Major-General G. H. Brett, Chief of the Air Corps of the U.S. Army, was appointed Deputy Supreme Commander, and General Sir Henry Pownall was appointed General Wavell's Chief of Staff, while Admiral Thomas C. Hart of the U.S. Navy was given command of all the naval forces in the area. At the same time, went on the announcement, His Excellency the Generalissimo, Chiang Kai-Shek, had accepted supreme command over all land and air forces of the united nations, which were now or might in the future be operating in the Chinese theatre.

WITHIN a few hours General Wavell was on his way to take up his new command. "I am fully conscious that it is a great responsibility which rests on me," he said on January 4. "The sudden and treacherous attack by Japan has given her forces an initial advantage. This is the advantage which a murderer, thief or cheat can always gain against an unsuspecting ordinary and decent citizen." The situation might become worse until the tide turned, and in any case it would not be possible to reverse it at one blow. "We must hold on with what we have until we can collect our forces for the return blow," he added. "The combined forces of Britain, the United States, China, the Netherlands East Indies and Australia cannot fail in the long run to throw out the Japanese freebooters from the places they have temporarily seized."

HISTORY has known other Grand Alliances—one of the most famous is that against Louis XIV of France, in which Mr. Churchill's ancestor, the Duke of Marlborough, so distinguished himself—but never has there been any Alliance to be compared with this tremendous "instrument of war, which is just as tremendous a forger and welder of the peace that is to follow after." Compared with the Declaration of Washington, the Axis and the Tripartite Pacts look small enough. On our side there are now ranged four-fifths of the world.

THIS was made outstandingly clear on January 6, when Mr. Roosevelt delivered the most historic of all his vital Messages to Congress: "The consolidation of the united nations' total war effort against our common enemies is being achieved. That is the purpose of the conferences which have been held during the past two weeks in Washington, Moscow, and Chungking . . . We shall not fight isolated wars—each nation going its own way. We of the united nations will so dispose our forces that we can strike at the common enemy wherever the greatest damage can be done. The militarists in Berlin and Tokyo started this war, but the massed angered forces of common humanity will finish it."

IN these circumstances it is almost difficult to realize that this time last year we of the British Commonwealth were alone, with no ally in arms beside us. America was in the working war but not in the fighting war. Russia—amazing thought when we think of the six months of struggle along the road to Moscow and back—was still Hitler's ally. The Chinese were fighting the Japanese, whom we were still trying to appease . . . What, or rather, whom, have we to thank for the tremendous transformation? First and foremost, Mr. Churchill and President Roosevelt; but perhaps our thanks are due almost equally to Messrs. Hitler and Tojo. If Hitler had learnt the lesson that Napoleon never learnt—when to stop; if Tojo had never thought what a wonderfully clever thing it would be to catch the Yanks unprepared—then we might still have been sustaining the struggle alone, or almost alone.

WHAT a vast difference, then, has been brought about in our situation and in our prospects by a brief 12 months! An even greater difference may be brought about before we have torn the last leaf off 1942's calendar—that is, if we work as we ought to work, and if we fight as we can fight and must. The armies of the Axis will be crushed on the field of battle, their navies will be sent to the bottom or driven to surrender at another Scapa, and their air fleets will be swept from the skies. Germany will at last experience all the woes and wrongs which she has inflicted upon so many innocent peoples. These things shall be. They will proceed inevitably, inexorably, from the Declaration signed in Washington on January 1.

E. ROYSTON PIKE

GEN. SIR ARCHIBALD WAVELL, Supreme Commander of the forces of the united nations in the South-West Pacific, being helped into parachute equipment before leaving Malaya after an inspection of Singapore's defences. *Photo British Official*

Malta Had 60 Raids in Christmas Week

Maltese Shelter dug deep beneath the island rock. Malta has thirty long underground galleries of great antiquity which have been adapted to serve as shelters against air raids.

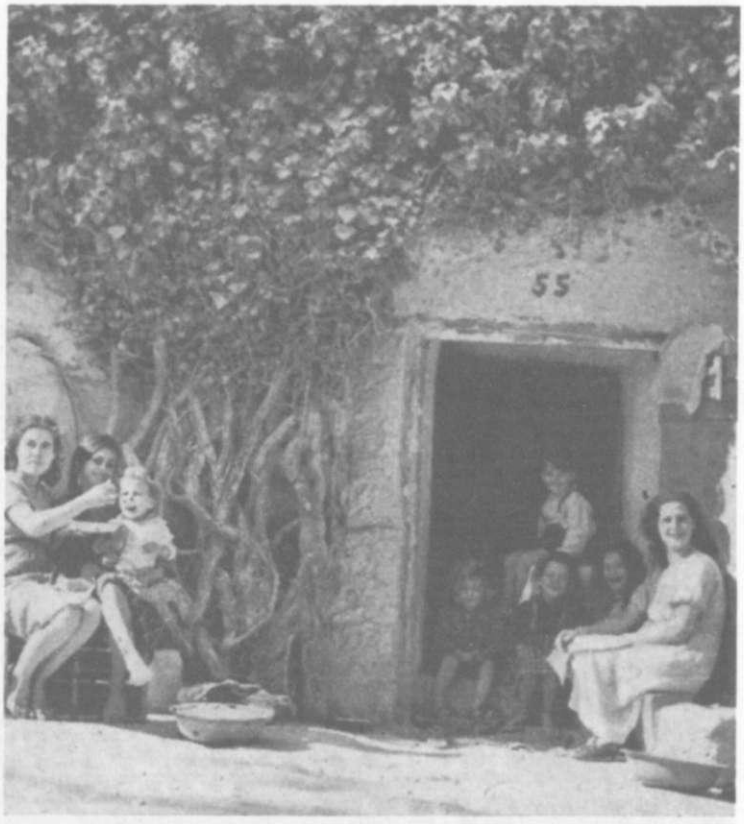
KING'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE TO MALTA

Malta the Indomitable sent the following Christmas message to King George VI :

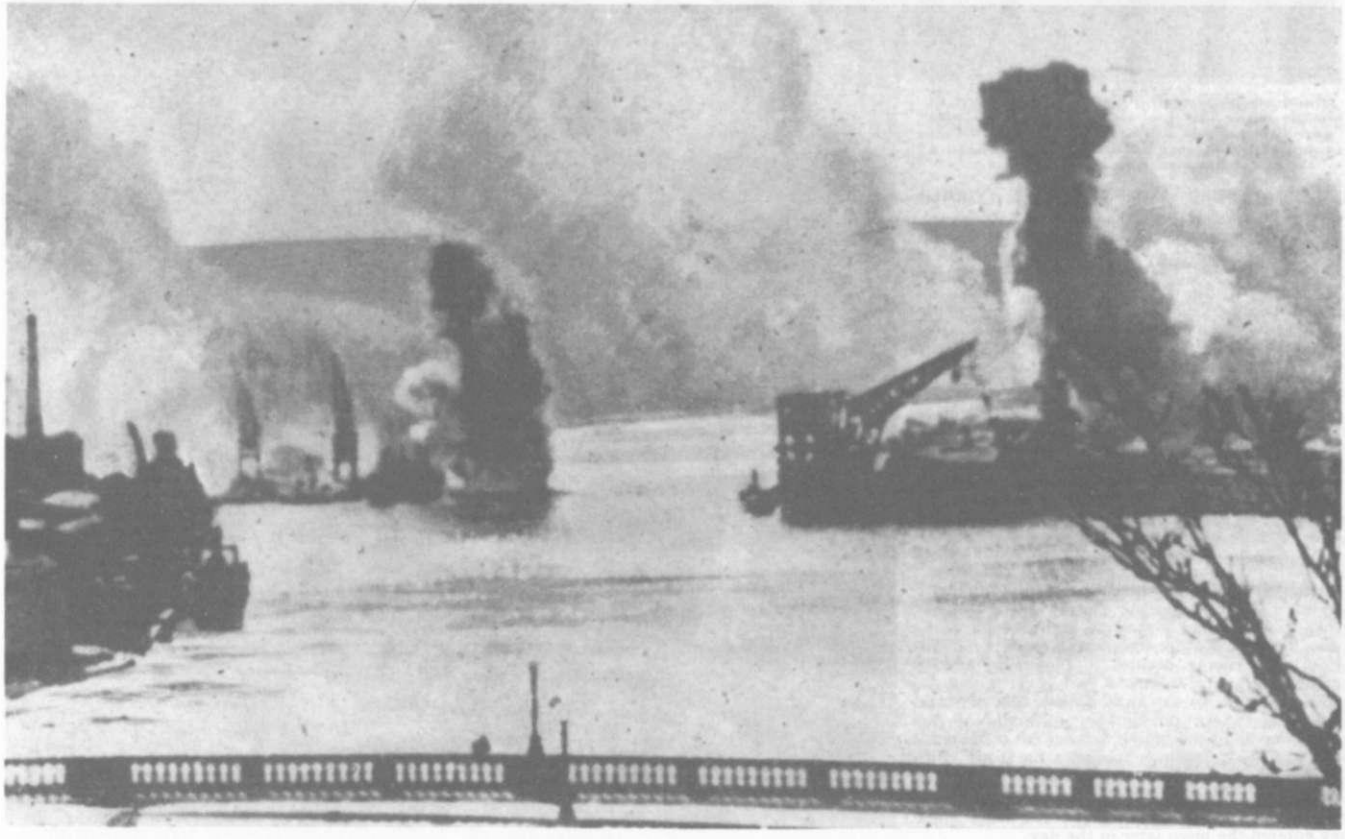
" Please convey to his Majesty the King the loyal and devoted Christmas greetings of the people and garrison of Malta and all parties in the Council of Government. Now, as ever before, Malta stands determined to play its part in the Empire struggle until the day of victory comes."

In his reply to Lt.-Gen. Sir William Dobbie, Governor of Malta, His Majesty said :

" Please convey to the Government, garrison and people of Malta my sincere thanks for their Christmas message. I send them my best wishes, in confidence that the coming year will find them as undaunted and resolute as ever in the defence of the island."



Maltese Families have endured a thousand air attacks—there were 60 air raids on the island during Christmas week. Fortunately the workable island rock has provided safe shelters and civilian casualties have been relatively small. These young Maltese are seated outside a shelter entrance.



VALETTA HARBOUR is, naturally, one of the main objectives of Axis raiders, and this photograph was taken at the height of a raid. But air attack on Malta has proved very costly to the enemy, enormous numbers of enemy planes having been brought down by the island's defences—A.A. guns and the indomitable fighters of the R.A.F. And Malta hits back, for British bombers based on the island have dropped millions of bombs on enemy targets in Sicily and S. Italy.

Photos, British Official : Crown Copyright ; Planet News

Our Troops in Libya Wear the Smile of Victory

Hundreds of cans full of petrol fell into British hands when this fuel dump, between Bardia and Tobruk, was captured. The loss of fuel supplies by capture or bombing has been a great blow to Rommel's panzers.

BARDIA COULD NOT EMULATE TOBRUK

THE New Year began well in Libya with the capture of the fortified seaport of Bardia. During the night of January 1-2 units of the First and Second South African Divisions—the South African Police, Kaffrarian Rifles and Royal Durban Light Infantry—supported by British tanks and medium artillery as well as by the Polish Field Artillery Regiment and by the New Zealand Cavalry Regiment, carried the strong defences of Bardia at the point of the bayonet. The operation was magnificently supported by units of the Mediterranean Fleet.

The Bardia garrison held a position of great natural strength, made even more formidable by the application of military science and engineering. But though the German and Italian garrison had before it the magnificent example of Tobruk to show what a resolute defence could accomplish, they surrendered unconditionally after an attack of less than 48 hours.

Although naval and air bombardment and artillery fire contributed to the capture of the fortress, it was the bayonet attack at night which really sealed its fate. Rather than face a repetition of the attack, the enemy decided to surrender, and on Friday morning, January 2, two Axis emissaries approached the British lines with a flag of truce. They asked Gen. de Villiers, commanding the British forces in the attack, to make a rendezvous with Maj.-Gen. Arthur Schmidt, the Axis commander, with a view to negotiating the surrender. The terms were soon settled and nearly 8,000 prisoners were taken by the Imperial Forces when they entered the town later in the day.

Maj.-Gen. Schmidt, the first German general commanding a large force to surrender to the British in this war, was Chief Administrative Staff Officer of the African Panzer Groups.

THE LIBYAN ADVANCE has brought regiments from home as well as Imperial troops into the limelight. Above, some cheery lads of the Essex Regiment are seen at El Duda, while at the top of the page two no less cheerful machine-gunners of a North County regiment sit in a captured enemy gun pit. Circle, a remarkable shot by the Germans. The shell went right down the muzzle of a British tank gun and split it in two. *Photos, British Official: Crown Copyright*

In Pursuit of Rommel Across the Desert

VICTORY IN LIBYA is crowning the efforts of General Ritchie's 8th Army, which, by the end of 1941, had almost cleared the province of Cyrenaica of the enemy. Photographs from the Libyan front in this page show: top, Axis tanks, armoured vehicles and mechanized transport ablaze in the desert after capture by South African troops. Below, British military traffic making its way along the Tobruk-Bardia road. The New Year opened with Gen. Rommel brought to bay at Jedabia, 100 miles south of Benghazi, where he strove desperately to break out of the ring slowly closing round him.

Photos, British Official: Crown Copyright

CHURCHILL SPEAKS FOR BRITAIN IN AMERICA:

MR. CHURCHILL in America! It was at 1.4 a.m. on December 23, 1941 that the dramatic announcement was made in London that "The British Prime Minister has arrived in the United States to discuss with the President all questions relevant to a concerted war effort. Mr. Churchill is accompanied by Lord Beaverbrook, Minister of Supply, and a technical staff. Mr. Churchill is the guest of the President." This was followed by the news that the Prime Minister had arrived at the White House in Washington and had gone into immediate conference with President Roosevelt.

Followed days of intense activity in which Mr. Churchill and his experts (who included Admiral Sir Dudley Pound, First Sea Lord; Air Marshal Sir Charles Portal, Chief of the Air Staff; and Field-Marshal Sir John Dill, lately Chief of the Imperial General Staff) discussed with the President and his colleagues such vitally important matters as the establishment of an Allied War Council to direct and coordinate strategy on every front and on all the seven seas, the combination of the man-power of Russia and China with the illimitable industrial resources of America and Britain, and the pooling of war materials and supplies—indeed, every aspect of what is now a world-wide struggle of the Democracies against the Axis Powers.

High lights of Mr. Churchill's visit were his addresses to the Congress of the United States on December 26 and the Canadian Parliament four days later—utterances which, thanks to radio, had an audience of uncounted millions; some of the most important passages in one and the other are reprinted below.

Premier's Speech to U.S. Congress

THE fact that my American forbears of so many generations played their part in the life of the United States and that here I am, an Englishman, welcomed in your midst, makes this experience one of the most moving and thrilling in my life, which is already long and has not been entirely uneventful. I wish indeed that my mother, whose memory I cherish across the vale of years, should have been here to see. I cannot help reflecting that if my father had been American and my mother British, instead of the other way round, I might have got here on my own.

In that case this would not have been the first time you would have heard my voice. In that case I would not have needed any invitation, but if I had it is hardly likely it would have been unanimous.

As a "child of the House of Commons," one who was brought up in his father's house to believe in Democracy, Mr. Churchill declared that all his life he has been in harmony with the tides which had flowed on both sides of the Atlantic against privilege and monopoly, and has steered confidently towards the Gettysburg ideal of "the government of the people, by the people, for the people." Then he described how much he had been impressed and encouraged by the breadth of view and sense of proportion which he had found in all quarters in America. The United States had been attacked and set upon by three most powerful armed Dictator States.

The quarrel is opened which can only end in their overthrow or ours. But here in Washington in these memorable days I have found an Olympian fortitude which, far from being based upon complacency, is only the beginning of an inflexible purpose and the proof of a sure, well-grounded confidence in the final outcome. We in Britain had the same feeling in our darkest days. We, too, were sure in the end all would be well.

You do not underrate the severity of the ordeal to which you and we have still to be subjected. The forces ranged against us are enormous. They are bitter, they are ruthless. They have a vast accumulation of war weapons of all kinds. They have highly-trained, disciplined armies, navies and air services. They had plans and designs which had long been tried and matured. They will stop at nothing that violence or treachery can suggest.

It is true that on our side our own resources in man-power and materials are far greater than theirs. But only a portion of our resources are as yet mobilized and developed, and we both of us have much to learn in the cruel art of war. We have therefore without doubt a time of tribulation before us.

During the best part of the last 20 years, the Premier went on, the youth of Britain and America have been taught that war is evil, while during the same 20 years the youth of Japan and Italy have been taught that aggressive war is the noblest duty of the citizen, and that it should be begun as soon as the necessary weapons and organization have been made. We had performed the duties and tasks of peace; they have plotted and planned for war.

But now at the end of December 1941 our transformation from easy-going peace to total war efficiency has made very great progress . . . Provided that every effort is made, that nothing is kept back, that the whole man-power, brain-power, virility, courage and civic fortitude of the English-speaking world, with all its galaxy of loyal, friendly and associated communities and States—provided that is bent unremittingly to the supreme task—I think it reasonable to hope that the end of 1942 will see us quite definitely in a better position than we are now, and that the year 1943 will enable us to assume the initiative upon an ample scale.

Some people might be momentarily depressed when the Premier and President alike spoke of a long and hard war. But the British and American peoples would rather know the truth, sombre though it may be. Moreover, all the tidings will not be evil. Already mighty strokes of war have been dealt against the enemy by the Russian armies and people. Wounds have been inflicted upon the Nazi tyranny and system which have bitten deep and will fester and inflame not only in the Nazi body but in the Nazi mind.

The boastful Mussolini has crumpled; he is now but a lackey and serf, the merest utensil of his master's will. He has been stripped of his African Empire and Abyssinia has been liberated. The British armies in the east, which were so weak and ill-equipped at the moment of the French desertion, now control all the regions from Teheran to Benghazi and Aleppo and Cyprus to the shores of the Nile.

There are good tidings also from the blue waters. The lifeline of supplies which joins our two nations across the oceans—that lifeline is flowing steadily and freely in spite of all the enemy can do. It is a fact that the British Empire, which many thought 18 months ago was broken and ruined, is now incomparably stronger and is growing stronger with every month. Lastly, to me the best tidings of all is that the United States, united as never before, has drawn the sword for freedom and cast away the scabbard.

Then the Premier proceeded to discuss what, viewed quite dispassionately, appears an irrational act—Japan's war against the United States and the British Empire.

They have certainly embarked upon a very considerable undertaking. And after the

PRESSMEN AND PREMIER. Mr. Churchill, smoking his inevitable cigar, and seated next to President Roosevelt, takes great delight in answering the questions fired at him by American journalists at a Press conference at the White House on the occasion of his recent visit to Washington. *Photo, Planet News*

HISTORIC WORDS IN WASHINGTON AND OTTAWA

ADDRESSING U.S. CONGRESS on Dec. 26, Mr. Churchill is seen before a battery of microphones which enabled his speech to be listened to by millions all over the world. Behind him is Mr. William P. Cole, Acting Speaker of the House, and on the right Vice-President Henry A. Wallace.

outrages they have committed upon us at Pearl Harbour, in the Philippines, in Malaya and in the Dutch East Indies, they must now know that the stakes for which they have decided to play are mortal.

When we compare the resources of the United States and the British Empire with those of Japan, when we remember those of China, which has so valiantly withstood invasion and tyranny, and when also we observe the Russian menace which hangs over Japan, it becomes still more difficult to reconcile Japan's action with prudence and sanity.

What kind of a people do they think we are? Is it possible that they do not realize we shall never cease to persevere against them until they have been taught a lesson which they and the world will never forget?

Next Mr. Churchill turned from the turmoil and convulsions of the present to the broader basis of the future.

Twice in a single generation the catastrophe of world war has fallen upon us. Twice in our lifetime has the long arm of fate reached across the ocean to bring the United States into the forefront of the battle itself. If we had kept together after the last war, if we had taken common measures for our safety, then this renewal of the curse need never have fallen upon us . . .

It is not given to us to peer into the mysteries of the future. Still I avow my hope and faith, sure and inviolate, that in the days to come the British and American people will, for their own safety and for the good of all, walk together in majesty, in justice and in peace.

Address to the Canadian Parliament

IT is with feelings of pride and encouragement that I find myself here in the House of Commons of Canada invited to address the Parliament of the Senior Dominion of the Crown . . .

Then followed many paragraphs devoted to a survey of Canada's magnificent contribution to the Imperial war effort, in troops, in ships, in aircraft, in food, and in finance.

The peoples of the British Empire may love peace, they do not seek the lands or wealth of any country, but they are a tough and hardy lot. We have not journeyed all this way across the centuries, across the oceans, across the mountains, across the prairies, because we are made of sugar candy.

We do not ask that the rules of the game should be modified. We shall never descend to the German and Japanese level. But if anybody likes to play rough we can play rough too. Hitler and his Nazi gang have sown the wind. Let them reap the whirlwind. Neither the length of the struggle nor any form of severity which it may assume will make us weary or will make us quit.

Then came a tribute to "that great man," the President of the United States, with whom Mr. Churchill had spent the last week, concerting the steps which will bring about "the total and final extirpation of the Hitler tyranny, the Japanese frenzy, and the Mussolini flop."

The crisis is upon us. The power of the enemy is immense. If we were in any way to underrate the strength and resources or the ruthless savagery of that enemy we should jeopardize not only our lives, for they will be offered freely, but the cause of human freedom and progress to which we have vowed ourselves and all we have. We cannot for a moment afford to relax. On the contrary, we must drive ourselves forward with unrelenting zeal. In this strange, terrible world war there is a place for everyone, man and woman, old and young, the hale and halt—service in a thousand forms is open. There is no room now for the dilettante, for the weakling, for the shirker, for the sluggard . . . The enemies ranged against us have asked for total war. Let us make sure they get it.

Mr. Churchill then looked back on the years of war. He mentioned Hitler's felonious invasion of Poland, "the phoney war," the assaults on Norway, Denmark, Belgium and Holland—absolutely blameless neutrals; the hideous massacre of Rotterdam, the great French catastrophe. If only the French had decided to continue the fight from North Africa . . .

But their generals misled them. When I warned them that Britain would fight on alone, whatever they did, their generals told their Prime Minister and his divided Cabinet: "In three weeks England will have her neck wrung like a chicken." Some chicken! Some neck!

Mr. Churchill proceeded to describe how the tide is now turning against the Hun. Britain is growing stronger every day. The Russian Army, under their warrior leader, Joseph Stalin, is fighting furious war with increasing success. General Auchinleck is mopping up the German and Italian forces who have attempted the invasion of Egypt. The mighty republic of the United States has entered the conflict in a manner which shows that with her there can be no withdrawal except by death or victory. After a passage in French, greeted with a roar of appreciation by the bilingual Canadian M.P.s, Mr. Churchill resumed in English.

We may discern three main phases or events in the struggle that lies before us. First there is the period of consolidation, of combination and of final preparation. The second phase may be called the phase of liberation. There is a third phase which must also be contemplated—the assault upon the citadels and the homelands of the guilty parties both in Europe and Asia . . . Let us then address ourselves to our task, not in any way underrating its difficulties and perils, but in good heart and sober confidence, resolved that, whatever the cost, whatever the suffering, we shall stand by one another true and faithful comrades and do our duty, God helping us, to the end.

IN OTTAWA, in the Chamber of the Canadian House of Commons on Dec. 30, the scenes of enthusiasm which had been witnessed a few days before in Washington were repeated when Mr. Churchill addressed the members of the Canadian Legislature. Here he is seen making his speech while members applaud. In the background sits the Speaker of the House of Commons. *Photos, Keystone*

Our Searchlight on the War

FRANCE'S YEAR OF HOPE

After France fell certain French Generals were unwise and mean enough to say that "in three weeks England will have her neck wrung like a chicken."

THE Russian victories and the entry of America into the war have had a profound effect on the true France. 1942 will be a year of increasing hope and possibly resurgence of the French people. Nothing, of course, but treachery can be expected from the Vichy Government, who are the gaolers of compatriots. France is said to possess two trump cards, North Africa and the French fleet, but even Vichy realizes that nothing is to be gained by handing these over to Germany. The men of Vichy, however, have so compromised themselves that they now depend for their lives, miserable as they are, upon a Nazi victory. As the chance of that victory recedes so will France pass out of her despair into defiance. The question is one of heroic leadership in France itself, inspired by the splendid attitude of Free France. If our late Ally has an evil genius for fostering the worst politicians in the world, she has also a good genius for producing fine patriotic figures. We do not doubt that some great leader who will help to restore the soul of France is lurking somewhere in that tragic land.

MR. EDEN IN MOSCOW. Wearing a black fur coat and an R.A.F. fur cap, Mr. Anthony Eden is seen, left, saluting after detraining at Moscow on his arrival for important discussions with Mr. Stalin. Mr. Molotov is seen, centre, and on the right is Sir Stafford Cripps. Mr. Eden on his return described the talks as "full, frank and sincere." *Photo, British Official: Crown Copyright*

MANILA'S MARTYRDOM

According to a British United Press message, United States naval authorities have allowed it to be understood that no maior contact with the Japanese Fleet can be expected for months, perhaps a year.

THE tragedy of Manila and the Philippines is one of the supreme lessons of the war. An amiable and peace-loving people is overwhelmed by the yellow locusts from Nippon. Britain cannot afford to criticize the United States for neglecting the defences of the Philippines. We, ourselves, have lost—temporarily—the Channel Islands, Hong Kong and much of Malaya, but the lesson to be learned is that both great Democracies proved unequal to their responsibilities. They were not able to protect the freedom-loving peoples. Let Britain and America revise the idea that freedom in itself has some magic power of self-preservation. To guard it we must be stronger than any combination of powers that might threaten it. The Democracies must also revise their ideas about peacetime armaments, and all malcontents who howl about the cost of navies, armies and air forces must be silenced. America is preparing to spend £37,000,000,000 on a Victory Programme. Britain is already spending £400,000,000 a month. Had the Allies in common spent a fraction of these figures before the war, Hitler and Mussolini could not have risen to challenge the free peoples.

WISDOM FROM INDIA

Some Indian leaders who today even in the face of this extreme danger are behaving in a sulky manner will never be forgiven by future generations for their indifference to the dangers of India.—*Sir Firoz Noon*

SINCE the Japanese entered the war a few responsible Indian leaders have warned their countrymen of the futilities of political discord and civil disobedience. Perhaps the Indian public of all castes and creeds are now able to see the difference between British imperialism, so called, and Japanese and German aggression, even though the Congress Working Committee has the effrontery to say that the British Government is an arrogant imperialism undistinguishable from Fascism. Subjugation of Asia is the Japanese ambition, and if it came about there would be no room in India for democratic evolution. Sir Firoz Noon advises the potential munition workers of India to plunge into the production of more and more guns and ammunition for defence. Such is the only way to ensure India's eventual freedom, the same freedom for which the Allies are fighting. Victory is essential to all our aspirations, and if it is not achieved the Germans and Japanese will put democracy in the concentration camp; Indian politicians and peoples would then really know what Fascism is. Mr. Gandhi has resigned his leadership of the Congress Party, but continues a symbolical opposition to all wars, whatever that may mean. His departure is a good sign, since Mr. Gandhi's attitude to the world crisis is hopelessly unpractical. At a time when all the seas and lands are full of bombs, torpedoes and tanks, civil disobedience and non-cooperation would appear to be an Indian form of hara-kiri.

GREATEST VICTORY OF ALL

Replying to questions in Ottawa, Mr. Churchill said that in the last five months the net losses of ships were only one-fifth of the preceding five months.

THE traditional way of taking our pleasures, or victories, sadly may account for the fact that Britain's best New Year gift, the Battle of Atlantic success, has received little notice. A year ago we were in the gravest danger of being starved into submission. Our arteries with the United States were being cut right and left by Hitler's bombs and torpedoes, but our seamen and an efficient war direction have turned a near defeat into a near victory. There are no words noble enough to praise the men concerned in this triumph. We can only humbly thank them and be proud of them, for the Battle of the Atlantic is the very foundation of all our victories—and it is still going on. Everything depends and has depended upon Britain's will and power to keep this sea open. Had we failed the Nazis would have won.

SALVAGE AND SALVATION

Will the drive for salvage of all kinds change our national habit of extravagance into one of thrift?

IN the old days of peace and plenty an intelligent Frenchman, asked what had impressed him most about England, replied that he was astonished by the wasteful and extravagant habits of the people of all classes. The opinion seems to have been confirmed by the immense value and utility of salvage of all kinds from food to metals and paper. We now collect these unconsidered trifles to help to save our very lives from the predatory foe. As to whether the world will be immensely poorer or richer after the war there are two schools of thought—those who believe that the cupboard of life will be bare, and those who think that a new system of economics and world cooperation will usher in a time of great prosperity. In either case the idea of national thrift might well continue, for thrift is a basis for success and happiness in life. The extravagant may appear to have a good time, but the careful man is not only the better citizen, but fundamentally the happier. To make thrift possible, however, post-war Governments must set an example. We must get back to a system that does not rob Peter to pay Paul, in other words, to reasonable taxation and better employment and wage conditions which will obviate the dissipation of public money. Surely the best social system is one which makes the individual proud and secure in his own efforts. It is the abuse of wealth and not its accumulation which is bad.

ANGLO-RUSSIAN FRIENDSHIP

What matters in foreign affairs is not the form of internal government of any nation, but its international behaviour —*Mr. Anthony Eden.*

IN his splendid broadcast on his visit to Russia, Mr. Eden expressed the feelings of all liberal-minded men and women in regard to Anglo-Soviet relations. The war for freedom has brought Russia and Britain together in idealistic amity. The magnificent fight of Russia and Britain on behalf of the human spirit has won the admiration of both peoples. Contrasts in forms of government must be no bar to an increasingly fruitful understanding. Let it be admitted that we have something to learn from the Soviets and that the Soviets have something to learn from us and progress is inevitable. At heart, the Russian and British peoples want the same things, freedom from aggression, freedom to develop their national genius, peace and prosperity. Neither is a war-mongering race; but, like all peace-loving men, they make the greatest warriors when the call comes to defend themselves against cruelty, injustice and tyranny.

SANDBAGS IN SAN FRANCISCO piled up around the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Building on the morning following the Japanese attacks on America's Pacific outposts. The threat to American cities on the Pacific coast caused the authorities to order immediate protective measures against the possibility of Japanese bombing attacks from aircraft carriers. *Photo, Planet News*

All These Things Constitute a Naval Base

THOUGH it is not intended to represent any known harbour, this drawing illustrates the characteristic features which may be found in any large naval base, whether situated in the Pacific or elsewhere.

The most important feature, of course, is the harbour (1), which must be capable of providing shelter for a fleet and room for the largest battleship to manoeuvre. The entrance to this harbour is protected by a net and boom (2) against the encroachment of hostile submarines. Minefields (3) guard the distant approaches. At (4) and (4a) are the emplacements of long-range coastal artillery which defend the base against enemy warships, and batteries of searchlights (5) are sited to illuminate the harbour approaches.

Fighter aircraft, as well as reconnaissance and bomber planes are stationed at the airfield (6), which has multi-directional runways. One of several A.A. defence systems, with its gun-sites, predictors, range-finders, sound locators and searchlights, is seen on the high ground (7). Seaplanes and long-range flying boats have hangars and repair workshops with ramps leading down to the water's edge (8) and a berth for aircraft-carriers is seen at (9).

Not the least important feature of the base of this kind is the oil and fuel storage with a jetty along which fuel is pumped into the storage tanks (10). A submarine depot ship, which houses a foundry, plumbers', coppersmiths' and carpenters' shops, light and heavy machine shops and electrical and torpedo repair shops, is seen berthed at (11) with some of the submarines it services. At (12) are larger workshops, forges, etc., where all heavy repairs to warships can be carried out, and in this connexion the large travelling cranes and gantries (13) are used.

The cruiser (14) is in the refitting berth, being made ready for sea again. A large power-house is seen at (15) and at (16) are storehouses. Alongside rise the aerial masts of the radio station (17). A large dry dock, in which major repairs and refits are carried out, is at (18), and adjoining it is the pumping plant (19). Dry docks are usually constructed in close proximity to wet docks in order that, after discharging her cargo or stores, a vessel may, when required, be dry berthed without loss of time. If there is no space availabe for a graving dock a floating dock may be used. Barracks, administrative offices and a parade ground for troops or Marines are situated at (20).

The strategical importance of such a base is obvious, and that is why Japan is making such strenuous efforts to deny our own and the U.S.A. Fleets the use of Singapore, Pearl Harbour and other similar bases, and why our Bomber Command makes continuous heavy raids upon the German-controlled bases at Brest, Dunkirk, La Pallice and Lorient.

Diagram specially drawn by Haworth for THE WAR ILLUSTRATED

The Ordeal in the Philippines and Malaya

The Japanese plan of campaign was to surround Singapore by the conquest of the Philippines and Malaya and the occupation of Borneo. Though their initial efforts, aided by immensely superior forces, and a treacherous surprise attack, met with considerable success, victory will remain with the Democratic powers when their great strength and strategy are fully coordinated.

As the war in the Pacific developed it was obvious that the Japanese were working to a long-prepared plan. Their strategy was to conquer the Philippines, and thus assure their ocean flank. Malaya and Borneo were secondary operations with the intention of surrounding and reducing Singapore. Hence the Japanese initial concentration against Manila, capital of the Philippine group. By December 29, 1941, they had as many as 200,000 men on Luzon, with reinforcements continually arriving.

The invaders struck with fanatical fury regardless of losses. During the night of December 29-30 the Japanese army operating in North Luzon attacked Cabanatuan, about 60 miles inland from the Gulf of Lingayen, along a mile front, meeting with strenuous American and Philippine resistance, while enemy forces, which had landed in overwhelming numbers in the region of Mauban, south-east of Manila, pressed forward in a long battle line. Making rapid advances, the Japanese had fought their way into Luisiana and Dolores by December 30 and were then within 45 air miles of their objective.

A statement from General MacArthur's headquarters on the next day prepared the world for the fall of Manila. It said: "The enemy is driving in great force from both north and south. His dive-bombers practically control the roads from the air. The Japanese are using great quantities of tanks and armoured units. Our lines are being pushed back." General MacArthur, with United States and Philippine troops, continued to inflict heavy losses on the enemy along an arc-like front stretching 200 miles from the Cavite navy yard across six provinces. While Mr. Stimson, U.S. War Secretary, praised the General's heroic stand, he pointed out that America must face the fact that the Japanese were overwhelmingly strong. "I am confident," he said, "that we can and will defeat them in the end, but we cannot do that by looking through rose-coloured spectacles."

Flaming Wreckage of Manila

It was announced on January 3 that the American and Filipino troops had left Manila and that the near-by naval base of Cavite had also fallen. All defence works, industrial and supply facilities, including fuel, were destroyed, and ships and stores were removed by the defenders. The Japanese entered the city amid the flaming wreckage of their own bombs, at 1 a.m. New York time. Meanwhile, the Allied troops were still holding strong positions to the north of the city, and the fortifications in the Manila Bay area, including Corregidor, Fort Hughes on the island of Caballo, Fort Drum on El Fraile Island, and Fort Frank on Carabao Island. The masterly way in which General MacArthur had conducted his defence was justified by the fact that he had extricated his forces from annihilation between the Japanese pincers. On January 4 it was learned that he was entrenched in the mountainous region of the Zambales and Pampanga provinces, two miles across the water from Corregidor. There was no thought of evacuating the U.S. and Filipino soldiers from the island of Luzon. Their courageous stand had at least resulted in diverting and holding more than a quarter of a million Japanese from objectives in Malaya.

While General MacArthur was consolidating his positions in Luzon, a formation of heavy American bombers attacked the

MALAYA, where at the beginning of the New Year Japanese forces were thrusting forward south of Kota Bahru on the east coast and had reached Ipoh on the west.

Courtesy of "The Times"

Japanese naval units at Mindanao, the most southerly of the Philippine islands. An enemy battleship suffered three direct hits, a destroyer was sunk and several other ships were severely damaged. The American planes, which had operated from a secret base, returned without loss. A conspicuously brave incident in this action was the fight put up by the small American seaplane tender, U.S.S. Heron, for seven hours against fifteen Japanese planes. The Heron shot down several of the attackers. She was assailed by a veritable storm of bombs and three torpedoes. One of the latter scored a direct hit, but still the Heron kept afloat and reached port. Her Commander, Lieut. W. L. Cabler, was awarded the Navy Cross and recommended for promotion.

Simultaneously, General MacArthur, operating in Pampanga province, to the

LUZON, chief island of the Philippines. Manila, the capital, was occupied by the Japanese on Jan. 2. The Americans and Filipinos, after withdrawing, held strong points to the north, where a fierce battle went on.

Courtesy of the "Daily Mirror"

north-west of Manila, struck back at the Japanese, inflicting on them one of the worst defeats since their landing on the island. The enemy in this engagement lost at least 700 killed. The defenders of Corregidor, which the Americans still held in Manila Bay, beat off the fourth successive enemy attack.

In Malaya, after a brief respite, following the British retreat from Ipoh, the great tin centre in north-west Malaya, fighting was resumed on a large scale. An announcement from Combined Headquarters, dated December 30, stated that the enemy were attacking in strong force in this area, though further air raids on Kuantan and Kelantan on the east coast of Malaya had caused very little damage. A matter for congratulation was the calm way in which the Malays of the north stood up to Japanese frightfulness. Although the Kelantan Volunteer Force consisted of no more than 100 strong, with a few Europeans, they carried out their duties with a stoical indifference to danger, guarding bridges and other points, and preventing panic generally among the inhabitants. Many stories of individual heroism in the Malay ordeal could be told, but that of Major F. Harvey and his assistant Lieut. Foo Kia Peng, two Salvation Army officers, has received special mention. When the bombs began to fall on Penang, which capitulated to the Japanese, these two devoted men decided to remain to aid the wounded. When Lieut. Foo's car was destroyed by a bomb he commandeered a rickshaw and was continuously on duty removing the injured to the hospital, organizing a refugee camp, finding cooks, and setting an example to the suffering inhabitants by his own resource and courage.

Malayan Jungle Fighting

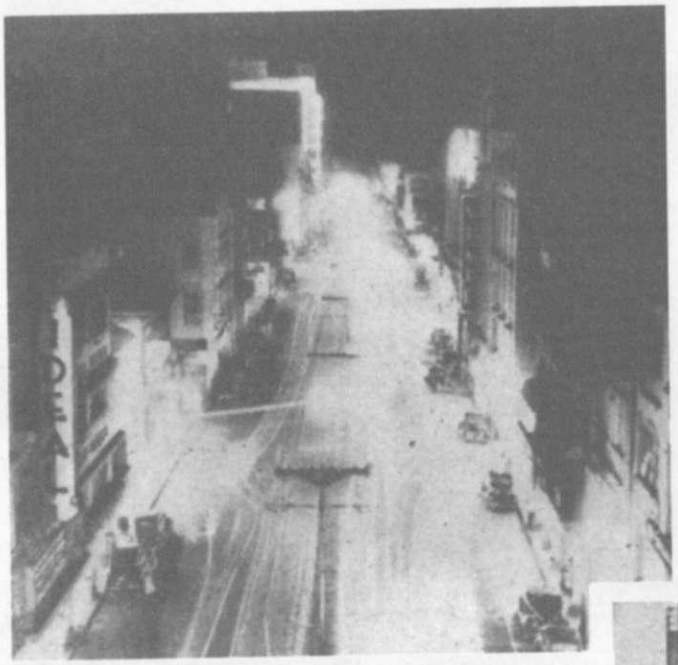
Strange indeed was some of the hand-to-hand fighting in the Malayan jungle. At an advanced outpost, south of Ipoh, a Highland captain, once a reserve Rugby forward for Scotland, having used up all his ammunition, attacked the Japanese with his hands. His C.S.M. battered the enemy with a Tommy gun. An orderly also entered the fray, and these three men killed at least 12 Japanese, and managed to escape unhurt, save that the C.S.M. blistered his fingers by grasping the hot barrel of the gun.

Enemy pressure on the Perak front continued to force our troops farther south of Ipoh towards new positions near Bidor, about 70 miles north of Kuala Lumpur, which is the second largest city in Malaya after Singapore. Maintaining their attacks from the north with a great number of small tanks, armoured cars and Bren-gun carriers on January 5, the Japanese also threatened the British left flank by further landings on the west coast of Malaya at the mouth of the Perak and Bernam rivers.

In the north-east sector the enemy drove down the coast of Trengganu to positions 30 miles north of Kuantan, a port for rubber and tin transit. Here they later gained possession of the aerodrome, some 190 miles from Singapore.

After four weeks of fighting the Japanese could be said to have had all the advantages and initiative. Our losses, particularly in rubber- and tin-producing areas, were undeniably heavy. We had to fight rearguard actions all the way against a vastly superior number of men and machines.

Manila's Preparations for Attack Came Too Late



BLACK-OUT in Manila was put into practice just before Japan launched her attack. The extinguishing of the lights proved prophetic, for Manila was the main objective of Japanese invasion forces and fell on Jan. 2, 1942.

Above, modern architecture in the capital of the Philippines. Below, the Escolta—the Broadway of Manila, —reported to be in flames when the Japanese entered.

FILIPINOS test their gas masks during a demonstration of civilian defence at Manila, city with a population of over 623,000. Once they had occupied the city the Japanese compelled all white civilians to remain indoors under penalty of being shot if they ventured into the streets.

Photos, Planet News, Lubinski

'Without Mercy and Without Respite' the Russian Armies Strike Ha

Hitler in Command: The Russians Sweep On

The end of 1941 saw the German armies retreating here slowly, there fast, along the whole of the front from Leningrad to the Black Sea. At this crisis of the war the Fuehrer assumed direct responsibility for the future course of the campaign. But the Russians, aided by General Winter, still advanced.

JUST before Christmas 1941 von Brauchitsch, Commander-in-Chief of the German Army, was sacked by his Fuehrer. In an announcement issued from Berlin on December 21 it was recalled that Hitler personally assumed the command over the whole armed forces of the German Reich on February 4, 1938, since "reasons of state imperatively demanded that all powers should be concentrated in one hand." Moreover, "the realization of an inward call and his own will to take upon himself responsibility weighed with the statesman Adolf Hitler when he resolved to be his own Generalissimo. The course of this war has more and more confirmed the recognition of this fact, but it was fully shown only when the campaign in the East assumed proportions exceeding all past notions. The vastness of the theatre of war, the close connexion of the conduct of land operations with the political and economic war aims, and also the numerical size of the army compared with the other part of the armed forces, have induced the Fuehrer to follow his intuitions and to influence in the strongest possible manner the operations and the equipment of the army, and to reserve to himself personally all essential decisions in this sphere. Following up his decision of February 4, 1938, the Fuehrer therefore resolved on December 19, 1941, while fully recognizing the merits of General Field-Marshal von Brauchitsch, to combine in his own hands the leadership of the whole armed forces with the supreme command of the army."

Why Brauchitsch Was Dismissed

According to the most generally accepted view Brauchitsch was superseded because of the failure of the attack on Moscow; the German Army had suffered its first major disaster and the C.-in-C. had to pay for it. But reliable information has come into the hands of Dr. Benes, President in London of Czechoslovakia, which points to serious differences between Hitler and Brauchitsch. According to these reports the latter is reported to have told his master that 1,075,000 German soldiers had been killed on the Russian front up to November 15; that Germany could not win the war, either on the field of battle or in the political arena; but that she might not lose the peace if she were helped by mistakes both diplomatic and political made by the Allies.

Following his assumption of the supreme command, Hitler addressed a personal appeal to the German Army. "From the new eastern front," ran one passage of his exordium, "nothing else is expected today than what the German soldiers achieved in four Russian winter campaigns 25 years ago. Every German soldier must set an example to our loyal allies . . . Preparations for an immediate resumption of offensive operations in the spring, until the enemy in the east is finally destroyed, must be taken at once . . . I know war from the four years of mighty conflict in the west, from 1914 to 1918. I experienced personally the horrors of almost all the battles as an ordinary soldier. I was wounded twice and was even threatened with blindness. Thus nothing that torments you, weighs upon you, and oppresses you, is unknown to me . . . What I can do for you, my soldiers, by way of care and leadership, will be done . . ."

What of the men to whom this appeal was addressed? Hundreds of thousands of them were retreating from Moscow, just as Napoleon's legions had retreated 130 years before and in much the same conditions. They were hungry and tattered, cold and miserable in the extreme. The icy blast pierces the ersatz uniforms—many of the men seem to be without overcoats—so that in order to keep out the cold they swathe themselves in rugs and old eiderdowns tied round their waists with string, wrap their necks in petticoats and Russian children's shawls. How woeful was their plight was confessed by Hitler himself. In a statement read by Goebbels over the German wireless, the Fuehrer claimed that "fighting an enemy vastly superior in number and material, our troops have gained tremendous victories," but in the next breath went on to say that "if the German people want to make a Christmas present to the front they must give their warmest clothing which they can spare in war and be able to replace later in peace." Goebbels went into more detail. "We who on the home front enjoy a modest but secure Christmas must deny ourselves. What we miss means simple discomfort compared with the privations of the soldiers at the front." So the "little doctor" appealed for gifts of "felt-lined boots, socks, stockings, vests, pullovers, warm woollen underclothing, chest protectors, head, ear and wrist covers, jack boots, large blankets, ground sheets, thick fur-lined gloves, scarves and wind-proof jackets." So, under the supervision of Nazi collectors, every German home at Christmas was searched for anything and everything that might help to keep the soldiers warm. "Even single gloves are valuable," said an announcer over the German radio, "for if a soldier has one hand warm he already feels better; failing anything better, he who has no other things to spare can perhaps find some old rag which may be made into warm lining."

RUSSIAN FRONT. The shaded area indicates ground recovered by the Russians in their counter-offensive up to the end of 1941. *Courtesy of the "News Chronicle"*

Napoleon Did Not Winter in Russia

One German newspaper published an "alphabet," with a phrase for each letter; e.g. under S, "Stalin is warmly clad, therefore see that our soldiers are still more warmly clad." Another had it that Napoleon's Grande Armeé was defeated in Russia by the cold, but this could not happen to the German army of today since their people at home would not leave them in the lurch. But the compiler of the alphabet did not mention that even the last stragglers of Napoleon's army had recrossed the Russian frontier on their way home well before Christmas in that fateful 1812. Moreover, the Germans in 1942 are striving to hold positions far to the east of any they held in the last war. During the Great War, Major Gribble of the "News Chronicle" has pointed out, the Germans never held the line farther east than Riga, Minsk and Czernowicz; there is not a point on this line which is less than 350 miles west of the positions now held by Hitler's armies in Russia—at some points the difference is 600 miles. The average day temperature in the existing German positions is from 10 to 15 degrees colder than on the old lines held during the Great War.

Compared with the Germans, their Russian foes were far better off. They were now better equipped, fresher, and in many places more numerous; they were, moreover, inured by long experience to conditions which, to the man from the genial Rhineland or even the plains of Prussia, must seem hellish. Still more, they had now the confidence of victory. All along the line they were pushing back the Germans. The threat to Moscow had been averted, and Kaluga, it was announced on January 1, was recaptured by Gen. Boldin—a reverse which Hitler strove in vain to counter by dispatching a crack German division from Cracow in troop-carrying planes. When they were smashed, he himself flew to Smolensk in the hope of preventing a debacle. In the north, too, the defenders of Leningrad were on the offensive; while in the south the Russians, by a brilliantly conceived stroke, recrossed the Straits of Kerch and invaded the Crimea.

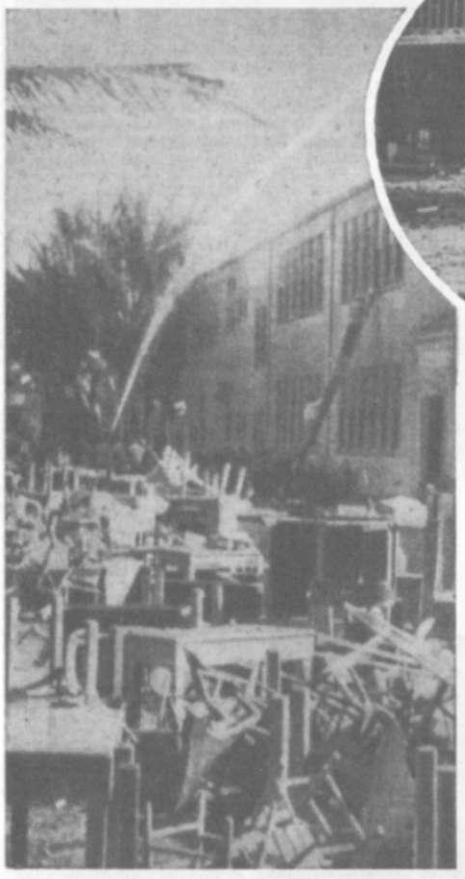
No wonder Hitler's New Year message to his people struck a sombre note. "Now, on New Year's Eve," it concluded, "we can only pray to our God Almighty that He may grant the German people and her soldiers the strength to support with a brave heart all that is necessary to safeguard liberty and the future."

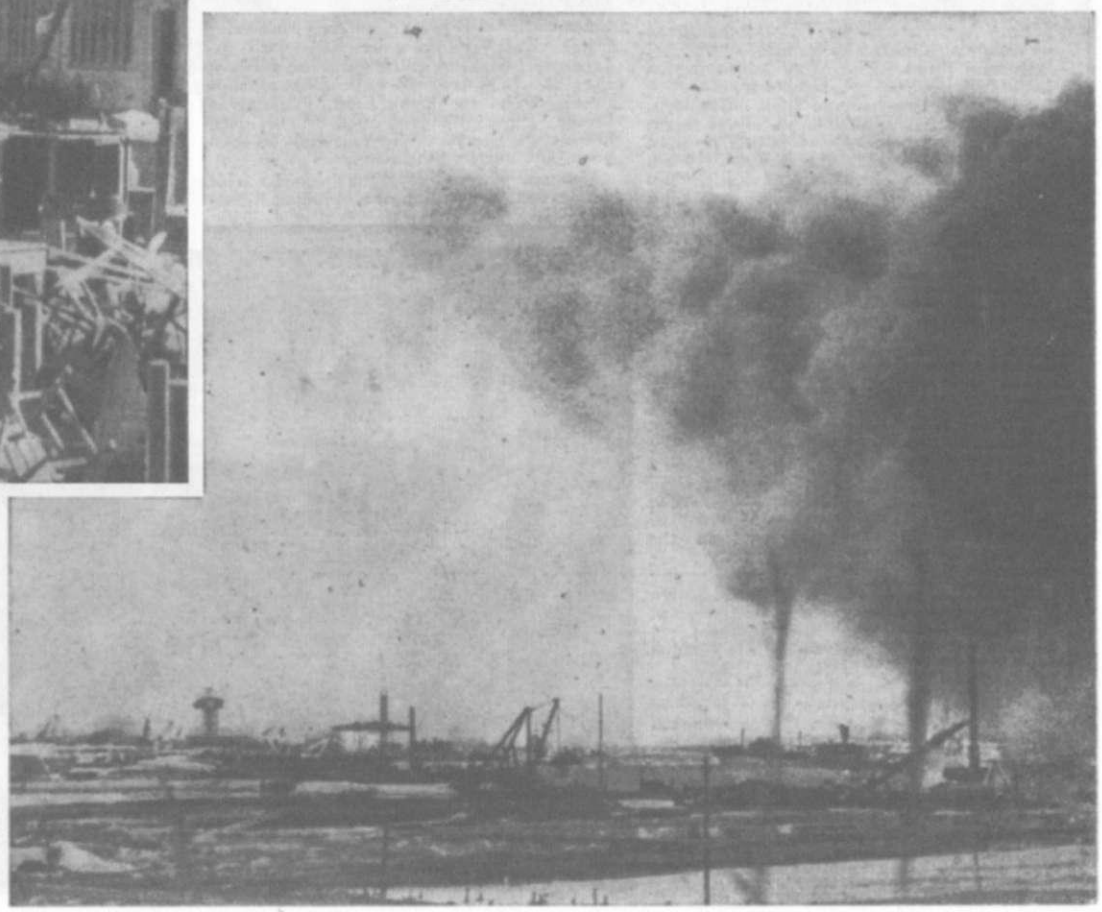
Hawaii Paid the Grim Penalty of Unreadiness

A.A. machine-gun and crew at Wheeler Field, American airfield in the middle of Oahu Island, Hawaii. They came into action when Hickam Field, farther south was attacked on Dec. 7.

An improvised gun emplacement made from a wrecked plane after the surprise attack by the Japanese on Hickam Field, near Honolulu.

Left, Hangar No. 3 at Wheeler Field, Oahu Island, after military areas in Hawaii had been bombed by the Japanese on Dec. 7, 1941.





AT HONOLULU (above) furniture was moved hurriedly into the street after the Japanese had begun their bombing and fires had broken out. Right, the scene at Pearl Harbour on Dec. 7 as Japanese planes attacked. The pall of smoke on the right comes from the burning U.S. battleship Arizona

Photos, Wide World, Keystone, Associated Press

Our Diary of the War

FRIDAY, DEC. 26, 1941 *846th day*

Russian Front.—Moscow announced recapture of Naro Fuminsk, S.W. of Moscow.

Africa.—In Libya, British forces harassed main enemy forces in the Jedabia area.

Far East.—Lt.-Gen. Sir Henry Pownall arrived in Singapore as C.-in-C. Far East. Engagements between patrols in the area of Sungei-Siput, Perak, and north of Kemaman, in Trengganu. Japanese landed heavy forces near Atimonan, 75 miles S.E. of Manila on the Island of Luzon. Heavy fighting in the area of Lingayen Gulf.

General.—Mr. Churchill addressed both Houses of Congress in Washington.

SATURDAY, DEC. 27 *847th day*

Air.—Düsseldorf and targets in W. Germany attacked in heavy night raid by R.A.F. Docks at Brest and Boulogne also attacked, and airfield at Sola, Norway.

Russian Front.—Red Army continued to advance, and good headway was made in the direction of Orel.

Africa.—Pressure on enemy continued in the Jedabia area.

Far East.—In Malaya, small activity around Blanja in the Khemor area. Kuala Lumpur raided by Japanese bombers. In the Philippines, Manila suffered a heavy air raid.

General.—Raid by combined force of Royal Navy, Army, and R.A.F. on the Norwegian Islands of Vaagso and Maaloy. It was disclosed that Mr. Eden had been in Moscow for discussions with Soviet leaders.

SUNDAY, DEC. 28 *848th day*

Air.—Wilhelmshaven, Emden and Rhineland were main targets of night attack by R.A.F. Docks at Dunkirk also bombed.

Russian Front.—Soviet forces attacked all along the front. Moscow announced recapture of Belev, Likhvin and Novosil. Gen. Meretsov's forces reached River Volchow.

Far East.—Manila again heavily raided by Japanese bombers. Enemy pressure increased from the south-east of Luzon. Dutch airfield near Medan, in Sumatra, attacked by Japanese bombers.

MONDAY, DEC. 29 *849th day*

Air.—Night attack by Coastal Command on enemy shipping at La Pallice.

Russian Front.—Red Army advancing on Leningrad, Moscow and Donetz fronts.

Far East.—Evacuationof Ipoh, in Malaya, by British forces announced. Four night raids on Singapore. Great battle between Chinese and Japanese raging in north Hunan. In Philippines, Gen. MacArthur's defence lines shortened north of Manila. Corregidor heavily bombed by Japanese.

Home.—Enemy air activity by night over N.E. coast. 3 enemy bombers destroyed.

General.—Mr. Churchill attended meeting of Canadian War Cabinet at Ottawa.

TUESDAY, DEC. 30 *850th day*

Air.—Halifax bombers made a daylight attack on the docks at Brest. 7 enemy fighters were destroyed by escorting Spitfires. Coastal Command made another night attack on docks at La Pallice.

Russian Front.—Moscow announced that Kerch and Feodosia, in the Crimea, had been recaptured by units of the Soviet Caucasian army. Zozelsk and Lugorski-Zavod, south of Moscow, also recaptured.

Africa.—Tank battle developed in the Jedabia area.

Far East.—In the Philippines heavy enemy pressure developed in the north-eastern sector. Malaya put under martial law. Numerous air raids on Port Swettenham.

Home.—Mr. Eden arrived back in London from Moscow.

General.—Mr. Churchill addressed members of the Canadian Legislature in the House of Commons at Ottawa. Mr. Gandhi resigned leadership of the All-India Congress Party.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 31 *851st day*

Sea.—Admiralty announced the sinking of five enemy schooners by British submarines in the Mediterranean and damage to an Italian destroyer.

Russian Front.—Moscow officially announced the recapture of Kaluga and with it news that 16 German divisions under Gen. Guderian had been routed.

Africa.—Rommel striving to keep open his southern flank to maintain supply lines from Tripoli. Bardia defences attacked.

Far East.—Two night raids on Singapore. Violent fighting south of Ipoh. In the Philippines Japanese mechanized forces pressed toward Manila from north and south.

THURSDAY, JAN. 1, 1942 *852nd day*

Russian Front.—Russian troops recaptured several towns, including Staritsa, 120 miles N.W. of Moscow.

Africa.—British attacked during night of Jan. 1-2 by units of 1st and 2nd South African Divisions supported by tanks, artillery and naval units.

Far East.—Big battle raging north of Manila. Officially announced that British forces had withdrawn from Sarawak. Sharp fighting at Kuantan in Malaya. Japanese-occupied aerodrome at Gong Kedah raided at night by R.A.F. Communique from Burma reported small Japanese infiltration into Bokpyn in the Mergui district, but enemy withdrew when British columns arrived.

General.—Admiralty announced a raid on the Lofoten Islands. British forces were in control for three days.

FRIDAY, JAN. 2 *853rd day*

Sea.—Admiralty announced that British naval units in the Mediterranean had sunk one Italian and two German submarines and taken prisoners the crews.

Air.—Bomber Command made night attack on naval bases at Brest and St. Nazaire.

Russian Front.—Moscow reported recapture of Malo Yaroslavets, north of Kaluga.

Mediterranean.—Night raid on Naples by R.A.F.

Africa.—South African troops and British tanks captured Bardia, 8,000 Axis prisoners.

Far East.—Manila occupied by the Japanese. Fighting going on to the north of the city. In Malaya three attacks were made by enemy on the Perak front. Landing in Lower Perak repulsed. Enemy occupied outskirts of Kuantan. Two air raids on Rangoon, and one on Singapore.

General.—Twenty-six powers signed a joint declaration at Washington, binding themselves not to make a separate armistice or peace with the enemy.

SATURDAY, JAN. 3 *854th day*

Sea.—Admiralty reported a five-day attack by U-boats on a British convoy. 2 merchant ships were lost, but over 90 per cent of the convoy arrived safely. An ex-American destroyer, H.M.S. Stanley, and the auxiliary vessel H.M.S. Audacity were sunk. At least three of the attacking U-boats were destroyed and two Focke-Wulf aircraft were shot down, with a third severely damaged. Admiralty also announced the loss by enemy mines in the Mediterranean of the cruiser H.M.S. Neptune and the destroyer H.M.S. Kandahar

Russian Front.—Russian troops pressed forward towards Mojaisk.

Africa.—In the Jedabia area British mobile columns continued to harass the main enemy concentrations.

Far East.—More Japanese attacks on Corregidor. American and Philippine troops consolidating new positions. In Malaya heavy fighting continued in the Perak area. Japanese landed in British North Borneo.

General.—A joint announcement issued by Pres. Roosevelt and Mr. Churchill stated that Gen. Wavell had been appointed Supreme Commander of the Unified Command of the South-West Pacific Area. Maj.-Gen. G. H. Brett was appointed his Deputy, and Gen. Sir Henry Pownall his Chief of Staff. Admiral Hart, commanding U.S. Asiatic Fleet, assumed command of all naval forces in that area under the direction of Gen. Wavell, and Gen. Chiang Kai-Shek was given command of all land and air forces of the united nations operating in the Chinese theatre.

SUNDAY, JAN. 4 *855th day*

Air.—Daylight raid on Germany by Bomber Command.

Russian Front.—Fighting reported in the streets of Mojaisk. Moscow announced recapture of Borovsk, 25 miles S.E. of Mojaisk.

Mediterranean.—Enemy submarine base at Salamis, near Athens, raided by R.A.F. during night of Jan. 3-4.

Africa.—Enemy positions at Halfaya heavily attacked from the air.

Far East.—Big battle still raging between Chinese and Japanese in Hunan province. In the Philippines, Corregidor was again attacked from the air. Fighting continued in Pampanga province, north of Manila. In Malaya, the Japanese reached a point 35 miles N.W. of Kuala Lumpur and made fresh landings on the west coast of Malaya.

General.—Pres. Roosevelt and Mr. Churchill attended a conference of the Allied War Council in Washington.

ST. PIERRE-MIQUELON, French island group off the south coast of Newfoundland, was seized by Admiral Muselier, Commander of the Free French naval forces on the evening of Dec. 24, 1941. Free French Marines are here seen marching along the dockside at St. Pierre.
Photo, Associated Press

War Reaches India's Eastern Gate

Lt.-Gen. T. J. HUTTON, C.B., recently appointed G.O.C. Burma in succession to Lt.-Gen. D. K. McLeod. He was formerly Chief of the General Staff in India.

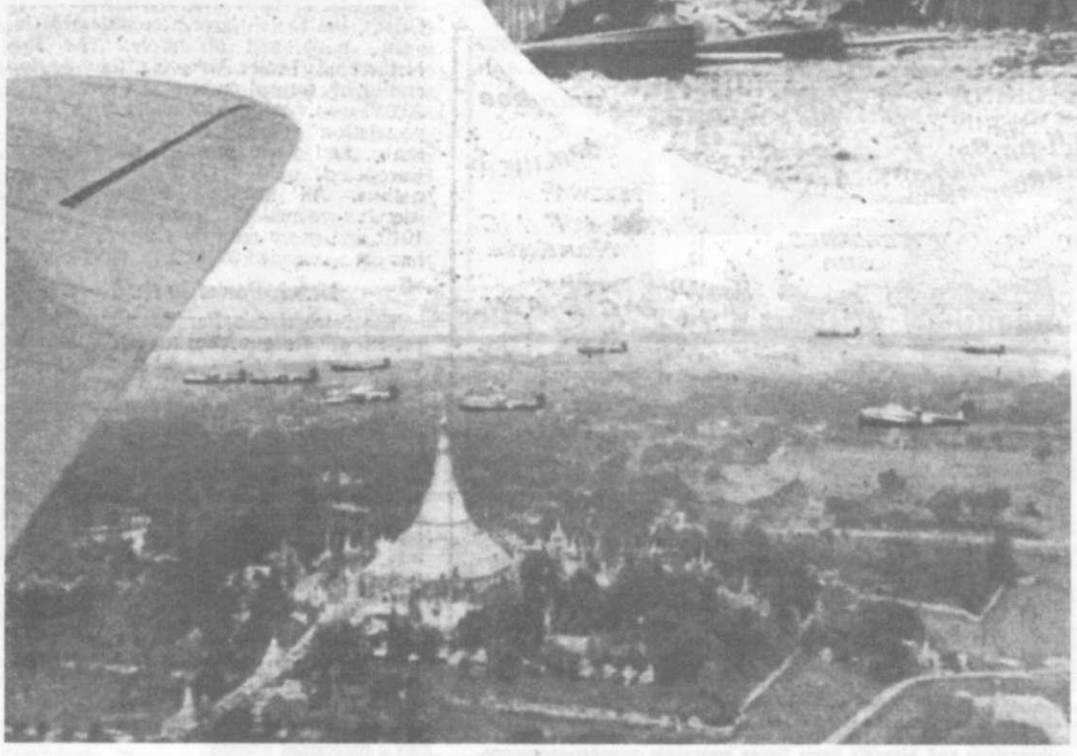
IN THE BURMESE JUNGLE British troops with rifles and tommy-guns advance, suitably camouflaged, during training exercises. Burma is now threatened by the Japanese occupation of Thailand.

RANGOON, capital and seaport of Burma, has been the target of severe bombing attacks. In the first of these, on Dec. 23, 1941, there were about 600 civilian casualties. American pilots, originally enlisted to defend the Burma Road, are now being used to help the British airmen defend Rangoon.

Little land fighting has yet taken place in Burma. Victoria Point, in the extreme south, was evacuated by its small garrison on Dec. 15, since it was considered untenable, and the first engagement with enemy troops was reported in a communique from Army H.Q. on Jan. 1, 1942, which stated that a small party of Japanese who had infiltrated into Bokpyn, in the Mergui district, withdrew in face of our columns.

On Jan. 2 it was confirmed from New Delhi that picked Chinese troops were moving into Burma to help in its defence.

BURMA has been improving her defences in recent months and, above, Shan peasants are clearing and levelling the ground for a new airfield. Burma has a land frontier of about 1,700 miles, bordering on China, Indo-China and Thailand.



Planes of a British bomber squadron are seen in formation over the famous golden pagoda called Shwe Dagon at Rangoon, Burma's capital. The aerodrome there was attacked on Christmas Day 1941, and the city has since suffered many more air raids.

Photos, Ministry of Information, Lafayette, Planet News

'We'll Defend the Indies to the Last Man'

Of all the members of the A.B.C.D. front in the Pacific war zone, the Dutch were the most fully prepared and hence already have a number of successes to their credit, achieved by their bombers and submarines against the Japanese transports and landing-parties. In this article we tell something of the Dutch Empire in the East Indies which, though Holland is in Nazi occupation, is so vigorously continuing the war.

A FORTNIGHT before the Japanese struck in the Pacific, the Dutch colonies in the East Indies were put on a war footing, and hardly had the news arrived of the attack on Hawaii, Manila and Singapore, when the Netherlands Government, here in Britain and in the Orient, declared war against the aggressor. Acting on Queen Wilhelmina's instructions, the Governor-General of the Netherlands East Indies, Jonkheer van Starkenborgh Stachouwer, broadcast the news to the people of the Indies at 6.30 a.m. on December 8. At the same time, the Commander-in-Chief in the Netherlands East Indies, Lt.-Gen. TerPoorten, mobilized the Army, dispatched forces to the outer islands as a protection against attack, and interned some 2,000 Japanese and a number of suspect Chinese. Moreover, they promised and dispatched all possible aid to their new allies, more particularly to the British at Singapore.

'Everything to Fight For'

The determined note of the Dutch resistance was sounded in an address broadcast by Gen. TerPoorten on December 22. The day had come, he said, for the Army to defend the country with all the means at its disposal against a barbaric and dishonoured enemy. "Already various hostilities have taken place in the archipelago, and already we may speak with pride of the blows inflicted on the enemy. We have everything to fight for—our honour, our freedom, our home—in brief, our happiness, without which life is not worth living."

A few days later, when the Japanese had claimed to have made landings in British Borneo, General TerPoorten vowed that the Japanese would not be allowed to get away with the oil they were draining from the damaged wells, "because our Air Force will bomb hell out of them." But, he went on, the Dutch needed immediate material support, particularly bombers, fighters and A.A. guns. Given these without delay, they could defeat even a large-scale Japanese attempt to land on their islands. In any event, "the Indies form the first line of defence which will be defended to the last man."

Certainly the Netherlands Indies would prove a rich prize for the Japanese robbers. For centuries they have been famed as among the world's richest islands. When the Dutch went there first they sought spices and such-like exotic produce; now the islands' immensely fertile soil produces rubber, sugar, copra, tobacco, tea and coffee, while from their bowels are derived oil and copper, lead and bauxite. Then the hillsides are carpeted with dense forests, filled with valuable timber.

Altogether the islands of the Dutch East Indies cover an area of about 735,000 square miles, inhabited by more than 60,000,000 people. Most important of the far-spreading group is Java, which, with a population of about 40 millions, may claim to be one of the most densely populated areas in the world—784 people to the square mile, compared with England's 703.

In Java are situated the chief interests, the principal arsenals and dockyards. Batavia (pop. about 260,000), the capital of the Dutch Indies, lies near its western end, while near the opposite extremity is situated Surabaya, the great naval base. To the west of Java lies the far larger island of Sumatra, much of which is covered with tropical jungle, although along the coast may be found many a town amongst the finest examples of town planning in the Orient; then to the east stretches a far-flung chain of islands divided by narrow seas—Bali, world-famous for its temple dancing girls, and Lombok, both outposts of Hinduism in a Mahomedan world. Next come Sumbawa, Flores and Timor, while to the north of these are Celebes and the Moluccas, on one of which is the naval base of Amboina. These are just a few of the scattered islands which are amongst the jewels

Jhr. A. W. L. Tjarda van Starkenborgh Stachouwer, Governor-General of the Netherlands E. Indies, who, in a broadcast on Dec. 31, 1941, declared that the Netherlands Indies would fight to the end. *Photo, Associated Press*

of Queen Wilhelmina's crown. They are the scene of a rich and complex civilization, which dates back for many hundreds of years.

As for the people, they are for the most part Indonesians, for the Javanese have mixed with the Chinese, and there is a Hindu element in Sumatra, Bali and parts of Java; there are also Arabs and, of course, a number of Europeans. In Java there are some 50,000 Europeans. Note that whereas in India the half-castes—Eurasians, as they are called—are ostracized by white "society," in the Netherlands Indies a dash of white blood confers the status of European. In years gone by racial intermarriage was encouraged, and, indeed, the Dutch burghers and traders can have needed little inducement to find their wives amongst the local women, since the charms of the girls—of Java and Bali in particular—have long been famous.

To defend their rich territories in the Orient, the Dutch have a considerable local army, navy and air force. The Royal Netherlands Indies Army is a fully equipped and highly trained professional force of some 30,000 men. All the members of the various population groups are represented in its ranks, and while most of the officers are Europeans, quite a number of them are natives. All able-bodied Dutch in the islands were made liable for military service in 1940, and more recently compulsory service has been extended to the native population.

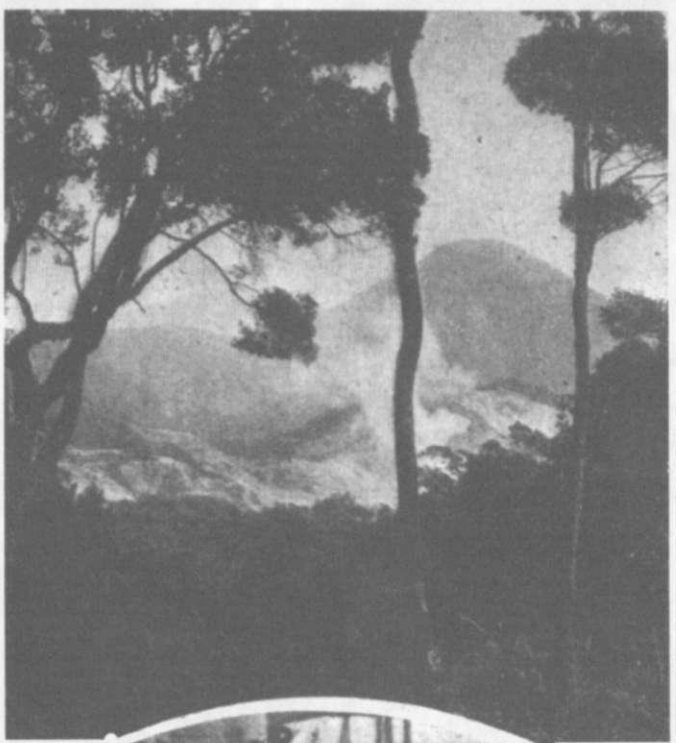
Dutch Power in the East

The Netherlands Far East Fleet is comprised of cruisers, destroyers, submarines, various small ships and auxiliary craft, and a Fleet Air Arm; the naval base at Surabaya is one of the most formidable in the Far East. Coming to the Air Force, it is equipped with American-built machines—Martins, Lockheeds, Curtisses, Brewsters and Ryans. It is on her air arm that the Netherlands most chiefly relies in this new war that has been thrust upon her—on her air arm and on the hosts of small craft, submarines and motor-torpedo boats in particular, which are eminently fitted for service in the island-dotted seas of the Indies. Indeed, in the first weeks of the Japanese invasion of Malaya and the Philippines Dutch submarines and aircraft did invaluable work in destroying 15 enemy aircraft, 2 cruisers, 2 destroyers, 9 transports, 2 tankers and 2 merchant vessels.

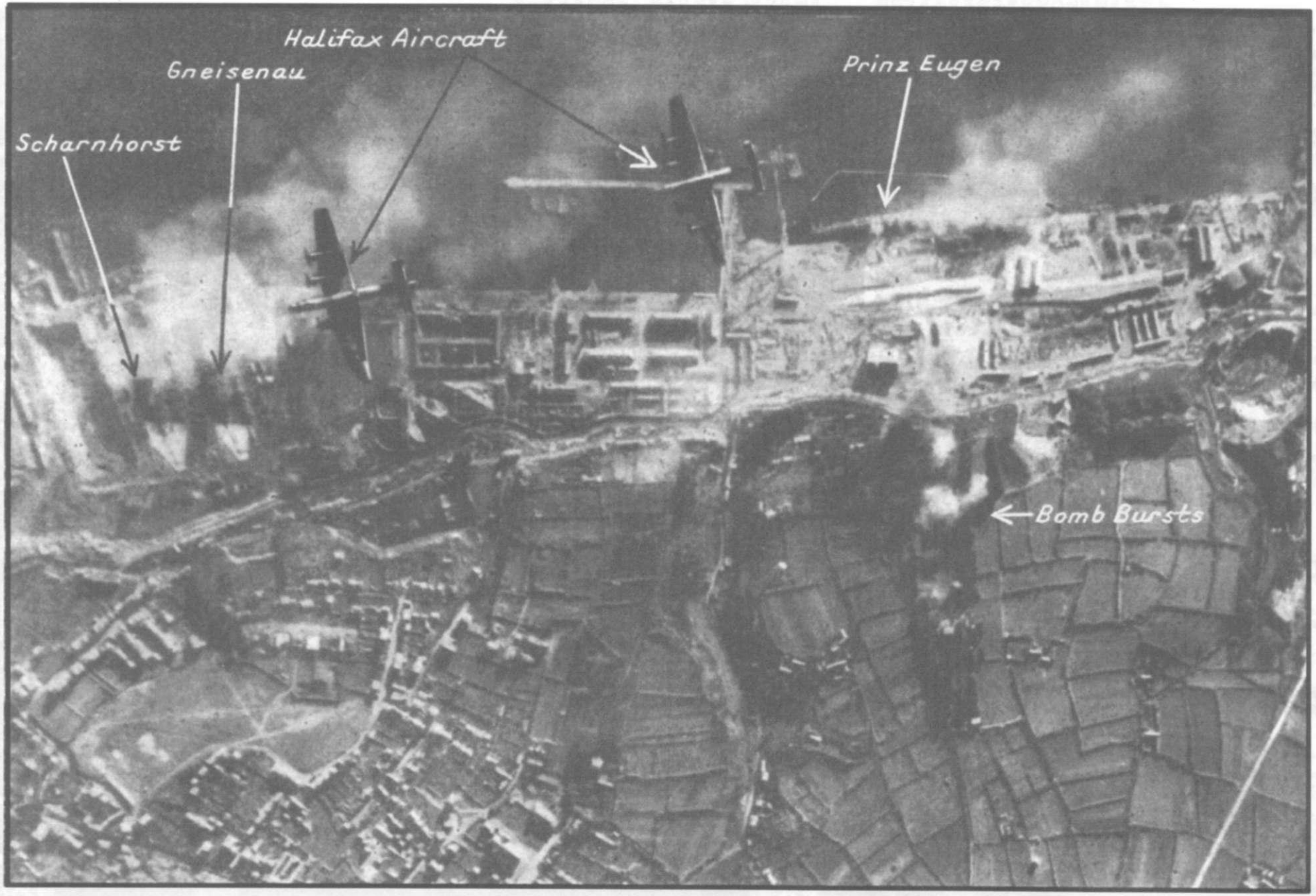
DUTCH EAST INDIES, long coveted by Japan, not only for the strategic position occupied by the archipelago which separates the Indian Ocean from the Pacific, but also on account of its vast riches in petroleum, tin, rubber, and crops. Japanese air attacks have been made at various points in the archipelago, while Dutch submarines and aircraft have taken energetic counter-measures.

Where the Dutch Face the Japanese Onslaught

The Dutch Colonial Government has long been alive to the dangers of fifth column activity in the Dutch East Indies. Here members of the Batavia Home Guard are guarding an administrative building during exercises.



THE DUTCH EAST INDIES have met the Japanese onslaught with calm and courage, and the deeds of the Netherlands forces there, by sea and in the air, have been prominent in the news from the Pacific theatre of war. Left, the Post Office at Medan, Sumatra, the airfield of which has been bombed by Japanese planes. Right gun crew of a destroyer of the Netherlands East Indies Navy. Centre right, view over the volcano of Papandayan, Western Java, showing the difficult nature of the country for an invader. *Photos, Planet News, E.N.A., Mrs. T. Muir, Sport & General*



BREST NAVAL BASE was the objective of heavy daylight raids by the R.A.F. on Dec. 18 and 30. It was during the former raid that the photograph above was taken showing Halifax aircraft attacking the German battleships Scharnhorst and Gneisenau and the battle-cruiser Prinz Eugen at their repair berths. During the month of December the R.A.F. carried out nine night raids on Brest in addition to these two daylight raids. These intensive attacks show that the R.A.F. is determined to keep the German naval units immobilized. Submarine repair shops and depots at Brest as well as at La Pallice have also received the constant attention of our heavy bombers.

Photo, British Official: Crown Copyright

Hong Kong's Fight to the Bitter End

For most of the world Christmas Day 1941 was saddened by the news that Hong Kong, Britain's outpost in China, had been compelled to capitulate to the Japanese besiegers. Below we give a day-to-day account of the colony's gallant stand against truly overwhelming odds.

WHEN Japan struck in the Pacific, Hong Kong stood to arms at once. The garrison, numbering some 8,000 men at most, was of truly Imperial character. It consisted of the 2nd Bn. Royal Scots and 1st Bn. Middlesex Regiment; two Canadian battalions—Winnipeg Grenadiers and the Royal Rifles of Canada—under the command of Brigadier-General J. K. Lawson; the 2/14 Punjabis and 5/7 Rajputs, together with the Hong Kong Volunteer Defence Force and the normal complement of R.A., R.E., and Royal Signal units, etc., the whole force being under the command of Major-General O. M. Maltby. Units of the Royal Navy and of the Hong Kong Naval Volunteer Reserve and detachments of the Royal Marines co-operated with the military force.

On December 8 Japanese forces, estimated at one division with a second division in reserve close behind, crossed the frontier of the Hong Kong leased territories on the mainland. Heavily outnumbered as they were, the garrison withdrew according to the previously arranged plan, blowing up roads and bridges behind them.

Dec. 9. In the afternoon our forward troops on the Taipo Road withdrew into the prepared "Gindrinkers Line," on Castle Peak Road. At about 11 p.m. Sing Mun redoubt, which was held by a platoon of the Royal Scots, was captured by the enemy by surprise.

Dec. 10. Attempts by the enemy to break through towards the Taipo Road failed. However, as reserves had been used in this fighting, a readjustment of the line was carried out at dusk.

Dec. 11. Strong enemy pressure developed in the morning on our left flank, held by the Royal Scots. The two left companies were driven in by heavy and accurate mortar fire, but the situation was stabilized by the use of all available reserves, including a company of the Winnipeg Grenadiers. The Royal Scots, nevertheless, suffered severe casualties.

Dec. 12. The island of Hong Kong was subjected to sporadic bombardment by artillery and from the air, but casualties were few. The civil population was reported to be calm, but their morale was considerably shaken. Monetary problems and rice distribution gave cause for serious anxiety.

First Japanese Ultimatum Rejected

Dec. 13. A difficult day. Shelling increased in intensity and accuracy, and various guns and searchlights were put out of action. The Japanese presented an ultimatum, which expired at 3 p.m. and was rejected out of hand. The Chinese were reported to be mopping up Japanese troops near Tashui, 25 miles north-east of the Hong Kong border, and near Lingehan, some 12 miles nearer.

Dec. 14. There was systematic shelling by the enemy. The morale of the civilian population was still shaky owing to difficulties over the distribution of rice, but otherwise control improved.

Dec. 15. It was reported that more than half of the pill boxes between Lyemun and Bowrington were out of action. Movements of the enemy towards High Junk and Clear Water Bay areas were observed, and further parties were seen to have landed on Lamma Island.

Dec. 16. Aerial bombing and artillery shelling were on an increased scale, with a high standard of accuracy on military objectives. One enemy aircraft was brought down into the sea.

Dec. 17. Our counter-battery fire silenced a section of enemy artillery on Devil's Peak, another on Gun Club Hill, and three mortars on the water front.

At 3.5 p.m. the Governor sent to Lord Moyne, the Colonial Secretary, in London a telegram. "After some further bombardment I have today received another letter signed by the Japanese military and naval commanders-in-chief, asking me to confer about surrender on considerations of humanity. The following is the text of my reply: 'The Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Hong Kong declines most absolutely to enter into any negotiations for the surrender of Hong Kong, and he takes this opportunity of notifying Lt.-Gen. Takaishi Sakai and Vice-Admiral Masaichi Niimi that he is not prepared to receive any further communication from them on the subject.'"

Dec. 18. "Another peace offer by the Japanese was flatly rejected this morning," announced Hong Kong, "to their evident surprise. During the night of December 18-19 the enemy succeeded in crossing the bare 500 yards of intervening water and in landing on Hong Kong Island, in the Tai Koo area and Lyemun, whence they steadily infiltrated to Wongnai Chung Gap and Tytam Gap."

Dec. 19. Counter-measures against the Japanese parties which had succeeded in landing in the neighbourhood of North Point and Tai Koo were continued.

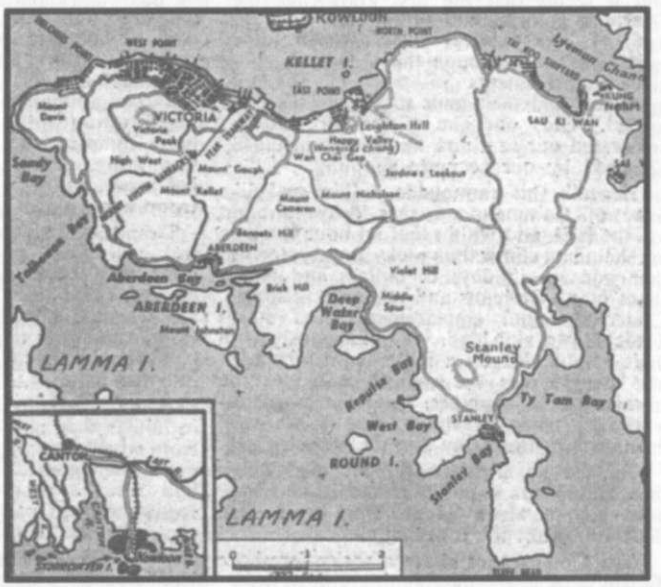
Dec. 22. The enemy landed further troops on the north-east coast and attacked continuously. A counter-attack on the 21st from Stanley towards Ty Tam Tak had failed, although a certain number of the enemy were killed at a cost of about 100 Canadian casualties. A counter-attack by a company of Winnipeg Grenadiers to retake Wongnai Chung Gap also failed in the face of concentrated mortar and light machine-gun fire, which inflicted heavy casualties.

Dec. 23. For the 24 hours ending 5 p.m. the enemy had kept up incessant attacks, accompanied by intensive bombardments from the air, mortars and artillery. Some ground on Mount Cameron lost during the night was recaptured by the Royal Marines, but counter-attacks by the force at Stanley towards Stanley Mound failed. However, the Middlesex Regiment successfully repulsed a determined attack at Leighton Hill. But the water and food supply was desperate, for the reservoirs and depots were in enemy hands.

Dec. 24. The enemy continued to subject the garrison to heavy fire from dive bombers and mortars, and by means of incendiary bombs set the countryside all round Mount Cameron on fire.

Dec. 25. "The Governor of Hong Kong," announced the Colonial Office, "reports that he has been advised by the military and naval commanders that no further effective resistance can be made. He is taking action in accordance with that advice." The statement went on: "It will be remembered that the Japanese effected landings in strength at several points on the island on December 18. To many it seemed that the end must be near. Yet for seven days, under relentless observed artillery fire, not only from the mainland, but from heights on the island, the garrison fought on, refusing three demands to surrender.

"The water supply soon gave cause for anxiety. Important reservoirs fell into Japanese hands; water mains were destroyed by bombardment. The Public Works Department struggled bravely to effect a remedy, but the enemy destroyed the pipes again and again. Two days ago there remained but one day's supply. Military and civilian casualties were heavy, but under the inspiring leadership of Sir Mark Young the morale of all was admirable."



Courtesy of the "Daily Mail"

An account of the surrender of the island was forthcoming from the Domei Agency. "Sir Mark Young, the Governor of Hong Kong," it read, "and the Commander of the British garrison there, at 7.5 p.m. yesterday (Dec. 25) unconditionally surrendered with their forces to the Japanese as the result of a parley with the Japanese military and naval authorities which took place at the Peninsular Hotel at Kowloon from 6.50 p.m. until 7.5 p.m. yesterday. Sir Mark stayed at the Peninsular Hotel overnight under the protection of Japanese troops and returned to Hong Kong to prevent the destruction of establishments and materials in the British Crown Colony, with a Japanese staff officer today. During the historic conversation Sir Mark stated: 'I am here to become a prisoner by ordering the entire British forces to cease all resistance.' It is understood that the remaining British troops, estimated at 6,000, have been ordered to disarm by noon."

"So ends a great fight against overwhelming odds," to quote from a Colonial Office statement again. "The courage and determination of the Royal Navy and troops from Great Britain, Canada and India, as well as the local volunteer units, and many Chinese, will long be remembered."

I Was There! .... Eye Witness Stories of the War

We Went to Vaagso with the Commando Men

On December 27, 1941, for the first time British soldiers, sailors and airmen combined in an assault on the Nazi-occupied European coastline. Their raid on the Norwegian island of Vaagso is here described by Reuter's correspondents who accompanied the expedition.

In charge of the Commando troops in the Vaagso raid on December 27, 1941, was Brig. J. C. Haydon, D.S.O. (left). The naval forces which cooperated in the raid were led by Rear-Adm. H. M. Burrough, C.B. (right).

Photos, Universal and Lafayette

We left our base with Christmas decorations still hanging up in the wardroom, and early on the morning of December 27 were off the entrance to Vaagso Fjord waiting for dawn—the zero hour for the attack to begin.

The ship's crews had been closed up at their action stations for an hour or more and there was not a sound as, in line ahead, we gently slipped round the headland and steamed down the fjord towards the town. Everything was ready for the first step—the bombardment of the two coastal batteries which the warships had to carry out first to enable the soldiers to make a safe landing.

Once inside the fjord assault craft with soldiers veered out of line and the warships went ahead to take up their positions. No attempt was made to interfere with this, and it seems that the first knowledge the German gunners had of our arrival was a hail of high explosive shells which rained relentlessly down upon them, reducing their gun emplacements to piles of shattered masonry and their guns to twisted pieces of metal. Only one gun of the two batteries answered our fire, and this was immediately silenced by our accurate shooting.

Beneath this cannonade a thin snakelike line of Commando barges drove straight to the islet, and within half an hour the men in them had climbed its rocky slopes, stormed the guns as in days of cutlass and pistol, shot many Germans and taken 20 prisoners. Later the gun emplacements and stores were blown sky high. Simultaneously with this assault, led by a major who serenaded his men across the smooth water to the strains of his bagpipes, the main landing—which I made in the leading barge with members of the Army film unit—took place.

As the naval bombardment died down the Hampdens swept over the head of the tiny bay in which Vaagso Port lay nestled thickly against the towering cliffs.

The Commandos chose a rocky foreshore on which to lower their ramps, and as they landed smoke bombs dropped from 50 feet up. This screen, through which a German machine-gun fired a few rounds ineffectually, gave the landing-party complete cover. It was perhaps a little too close, but it could not have been better timed. The R.A.F. had scored an early bull's eye.

I waded ashore with the rest, knee-deep through rocky pools and acrid fumes, on to ledges of snow. It was a weird and confusing experience, through which the Commando troops, led by dashing young officers and hard-bitten sergeants, emerged to begin a series of assaults through and around the narrow town from west to east.

It was then that the fun—Commando fun 1942 style—really started. The officers of the troops concerned gathered up their forces for the most desperate of all the tasks that short swift day. They had to advance down the main street.

A Troop Without An Officer

One officer had slipped on getting out of the boat and jammed his leg between it and the rocks, but he struggled on, limping badly. Another encountered immediate machine-gun fire, and with his men engaged and killed five of the enemy before setting fire to an ammunition dump. Later, he was killed trying with a corporal to storm a hotel from which a number of German officers were firing. A third officer was sniped in the back soon afterwards. At one time the entire troop was without an officer in command.

Despite casualties, all ranks pursued their task with great gallantry both before and after they were reinforced by a floating reserve. One man I saw fought brilliantly. He was the corporal who went with his captain to storm the hotel. After the officer had been shot he managed to chuck a grenade into the building, which then caught fire.

Many Germans were roasted to death in houses they made into strong points, and from which they doggedly refused to emerge, even when grenades or a fusillade of shots had set the rooms about them on fire. Resistance was particularly stubborn in the centre of the town which, as the morning grew older, began to blaze as more and more houses holding snipers and small parties of the enemy came under heavy fire, including 2-inch and 3-inch mortar shells.

While we were still dodging behind boulders and slinking over the first half-mile, and whilst the first of the Norwegian men, women and children, anxious to go to England, were running back to our barges—some in tears, some laughing and all rather scared—two warships rode majestically past the town sending a wash ashore for four miles or more of Nazi inland waterway space.

Heavy gunfire reverberated down the fjord to add to the clamour of explosions. Another German coastal battery four miles away over the hills tried to get the range of our warships, but their fire was ineffective.

Deprived of reinforcements, the nearest neighbouring garrison was over the water 25 miles away. The Germans got little help from their air force, although the aerodromes at Trondheim, Stavanger, Lista, Aalborg and Herdla are all within striking distance.

The land operations, carried out in the extreme confusion of close hand-to-hand fighting, smoke and flame, tested the Commandos' communication system to the hilt and as the battle progressed many messages could only be got through by word of mouth.

The lieut.-colonel commanding the battle on shore showed an inspiring disregard of danger in his anxiety to keep it under control. He escaped unscathed, although he had at least one narrow escape. A German opening a door threw a stick grenade in his path, but he jumped clear. Then the Nazi walked out. He was immediately shot.

Demolition work was sometimes unavoidably risky owing to the closeness of the canning and oil factories to the fighting. I and several others had to duck rather hastily

HERDLA AERODROME, about 100 miles down the coast from Vaagso Is., was heavily attacked by Blenheims of Bomber Command during the combined operations of December 27 to prevent enemy aircraft from assisting the German garrison attacked by the British raiding-party. The photograph was taken from one of the attacking Blenheims, and shows bombs bursting on the airfield. The Me 109 on the extreme left, taxi-ing on the airfield, was destroyed.

Photo, British Official: Crown Copyright

I WAS THERE!

The remarkable photographs in this page were taken during the combined raid on the occupied Islands of Vaagso and Maaloy on December 27, 1941. Left, four German prisoners, one of whom carries a white flag of surrender, being escorted to a British transport. Right, one of the few British wounded being evacuated on one of the landing craft. At least 120 Germans were killed during the raid.

when the biggest of them was blown up, and a little later, when the only German tank in town, a small light model, was demolished in its garage. Pieces of the burning metal whistled past me up the street and wounded two of our men 200 yards away.

The Germans, though outnumbered, fought to the last and were good physical types. By skilful use of cover and by using almost flashless and smokeless cordite they showed that they have mastered one of the ugliest features of modern war—street-fighting. Some German troops, including a small unit spending Christmas at Vaagso and who were out early on a route march, made for high ground, and one soldier was still sniping when, all tasks completed, the last of the Commandos were re-embarked.

It was just three in the afternoon as we steamed out of Vaagso Fjord. Almost the entire German garrison of upwards of 200 men had been killed, wounded, or taken prisoner; all the industrial plant was dynamited, and the coastal guns spiked. The Navy destroyed 16,000 tons of merchant shipping, two armed trawlers and an armed tug. R.A.F. and Naval cooperation was of first-class vigour, and, as one Commando sergeant described it, "so comforting." No soldier, sailor or airman who took part failed to realize their complete interdependence in modern warfare.

I Watched a Practice Alert in India

Formed only 18 months ago, the Indian Observer Corps has thousands of keen-eyed and keen-eared watchers who cover all the areas vulnerable to air attack. Reuter's special correspondent sends this account of the air defence exercises he witnessed in Northern India.

COLUMNS of armoured vehicles, taking part in the week's air defence exercises, passed me roaring their way north as I went to visit the secret headquarters of the India Observer Corps somewhere in Northern India. They were followed by heavy guns.

In the headquarters I found a large table with a map of the surrounding districts so arranged that the path of the approaching aircraft reported by the observation posts by means of direct telephone connexions could be plotted with complete accuracy.

Two mock air raids were taking place when I arrived. With quiet efficiency young Indians received telephone reports and marked the position of the raiders on the map, while at the desk above them others reported to fighter aircraft command, A.R.P. authorities and anti-parachutist detachments. On the first day, I was told, these keen youngsters dealt successfully with no less than nine simultaneous raids.

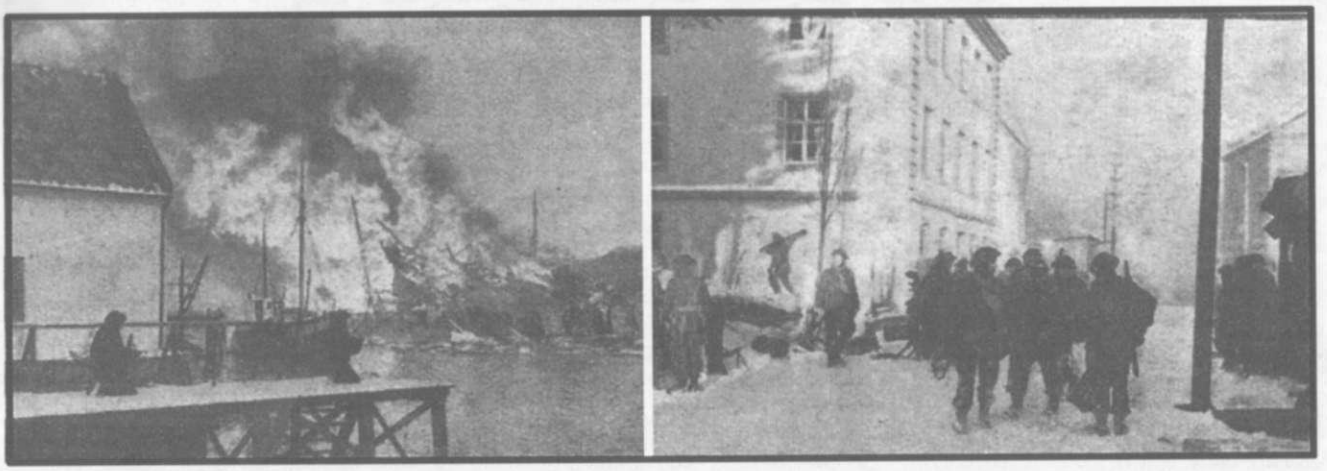
The mock air raids took a realistic turn when the sirens sounded and the warplanes, whose path I had been watching plotted, appeared overhead. Detonations in the vicinity indicated that they had succeeded in dropping a few bombs. But a few minutes later one of the outlying observers reported that at least two raiders had been shot down in his area, and the appropriate indicator was triumphantly placed on the plotting map. These young Indians, many of them evidently scarcely out of school, did their job with superb efficiency which could only be attained by their own keenness coupled with skilful training.

The great air defence exercises entered their second phase with aircraft representing enemy air forces attacking various local targets. Hostile aircraft flew at a great height over the cantonment area of Peshawar. The alarm was sounded and full defence precautions were immediately taken by the civil and military authorities. No bombs were dropped and presumably the enemy's object was merely to spy out the land.

Later in the day a short but sharp attack by enemy dive-bombing was made on a post in the Khyber Pass, but this was repulsed without any serious damage being caused.

Soon after dark some "bombs" fell unexpectedly in the Noshera area, evidently dropped by enemy aircraft operating at a very great height in the sub-stratosphere. The umpires of the directing staff ruled that these bombs, if real, would have caused a certain amount of damage to a main road and railway in the vicinity. Arrangements were at once made to effect the necessary repairs.

All civil and military A.R.P. and P.A.D. (preparation for air defence) services are in a constant state of readiness. Black-out and other defence measures have been strictly enforced and everyone is waiting with keen interest for further developments in these realistic and instructive exercises.



ON VAAGSO ISLAND an oil factory burns fiercely after demolition by the British Commandos. British soldiers are seen guarding against snipers or surprise counter-attacks. Right, British troops after street fighting in the main street of Vaagso, where they attacked and captured the German H.Q. The German military commander was taken prisoner as was the naval officer in charge of the convoy control port. *Photos, British Official*

Editor's Postscript

How many of the millions who listen to the B.B.C. every day of their lives realize that they are utilizing the greatest of all modern inventions for world-happiness? Not one in ten thousand, I'll bet. They accept this superlative achievement of human skill just as indifferently as the packet of cigarettes for which they had to queue up—nay, the trouble of getting the latter gives it for the moment a superior value to the priceless gift of radio. That nation shall speak peace unto nation through etheric space does not thrill them greatly. No wonder when we consider that through most of the years in which radio has been at the command of men it is War that has been spoken. Without wireless this world war could not have come to pass: certainly not in its manner of coming and continuing. Without (1) the misuse of this marvel of science in spreading lies, hatred, and threats of horror and nation speaking war unto nation, (2) the coordinating of the movements of armies and navies and ships at sea, and (3) guiding the death-dealing bombers to their targets—without these no such universal war as we are witnessing could have developed on this planet.

Few, indeed, ever think of that when listening to exponents of the lowest form of melody, known as "crooning," which my dictionary rightly defines as "a hollow, continued moan." Moaners would be a better description for its exponents. Nor can you be impressed with the wonder of wireless when your receiver sometimes assaults your ears and senses with the crude and crapulous jokes of men indiscriminately dubbed "comedians," some of whose prototypes before Marconi's day collected their fees in their hats by the sad sea waves.

Yet, think of the wonder of wireless when on December 26 last you could listen while all the world listened to the greatest oration since Lincoln's two minutes' masterpiece at Gettysburg in November 1863, heard by a few hundreds only. Churchill's thirty-five minutes of superbly-balanced oratory, in which he had the greatest theme in modern history for exposition—the uniting of all freedom-loving nations under the lead of the entire English-speaking world for the extinction of tyranny, wars, murder, and slavery—this great speech will echo down the ages and untold millions through the world were able to listen to the actual words of flame and fervour as they issued from his own eloquent lips. A tremendous occasion, which thrilled into a renewed fervour of life the countless millions of listeners who shared the orator's sympathies and ideals, while it must also have confirmed their faith in their deliverance for the oppressed and tortured who could hear it in those lands where the Nazi slavery has been imposed.

Just what followed his historic speech on the broadcast that night I don't know. I certainly didn't listen. But as likely as not it might have been: "We are now taking you over to Cock-eyed Caravan in Soho for dance music by Billy Bonehead and His Boys, with Minnie Moaner." That's the pity of it—what a juxtaposition. But, of course, the B.B.C. cannot be expected to cater mainly, or even largely, for high-brows, when one remembers the intellectual standard of its major body of listeners—after seventy years of free education. Nor am I in any degree against amusement and entertainment, with or without music, featuring largely on the programmes. I owe too many good laughs from B.B.C. entertainers—no listener can be more eager than, at any time, I for a good comic turn—to grudge the quantity that is daily dished up. It's the curiously poor quality of much of it to which I take exception.

GEN. Sir H. R. POWNALL, recently appointed Chief of Staff to General Wavell in the new Pacific Command, served in France and Belgium through the last war and in 1938 was Director of Military Operations and Intelligence at the W.O. *Photo, Walter Stoneman*

So important is the part that radio is playing in the life of all nations today I feel we must do more than tolerate it or take it for granted. Its place in our everyday life is increasingly important and after the War it may revolutionize more than one of our cherished institutions. It can only benefit by criticism. Just now it has attained to titanic stature because of the paper famine. The B.B.C. is clearly usurping many of the time-honoured functions of journalism. With the exceptions of the "Daily Telegraph" and "The Times" among the London dailies I found the others astonishingly empty on the morning after Boxing Day when they had actually three days' news to offer their readers. Except for a few brilliant columns of exclusive writing, they mainly consisted of the news bulletins, to which we have listened several times over, reprinted and slightly garnished with flaring headlines.

I fear that our daily papers (except those named) are in grave danger of losing individuality by over-compression in order to print a maximum of copies from their available quotas. It magnifies the office of the B.B.C., and no greater disaster to our social and intellectual life could happen than the B.B.C. emerging from the War as the prime source of national information, instruction, and amusement. That would be a big step towards totalitarianism. The B.B.C. as a stronghold of Bureaucracy would be a menace to the very freedom for which we are fighting and enduring unimagined privations. It must not be, yet things could easily drift that way—are drifting in my opinion, and only strong, free, individual newspapers will stop the drift.

My thoughts have turned thus after reading an attractive pamphlet "B.B.C. at War," by Antonia White, in which the multifarious activities of the Corporation are described and illustrated in a way that makes one feel "hats off to the B.B.C." But there's the very point of danger. My first impulse was to pen a glowing tribute to the War work of this great national monopolist organization; it is impossible to withhold admiration for the scope, enterprise, and general good sense of its ever-widening activities, only the least worthy of which are best known to a public incurious about the best. Its continuous foreign broadcasts in its European News Service are models of honest statement and judicious comment, as I can personally vouch from being able to follow them in three of the many foreign languages in which they are issued. Especially do I like to listen to the fine, vigorous phrasing of the Spanish announcer, though the Italian and French are equally praiseworthy and the English bulletins in the European service sometimes seem to me more pithy and pointed than those in the Home Service.

The vividness of the news is immensely enhanced by the recordings from B.B.C. observers on all fronts of the War, and the men and women that are often brought to the microphone to relate personal experiences help not only to give immediacy to the news but to enlarge its appeal and its international value. All this is splendid, and I'm backing much of our propaganda of understatement against all the hysterical, over-emphasized, and exaggerated emanations from enemy sources. But, I repeat, it will be a bad day for Britain if the present news monopoly of the B.B.C. should ever become an established and regularized competitor with the free press of a free people.

Not content with having made a great success of the Brains Trust, I see that the B.B.C. is even giving "Any Questions" a book all to itself . . . and private publishers are starving for paper! The publications department of the B.B.C. has always seemed to me a questionable form of activity in a country where we have not yet copied our Russian Allies by nationalizing the book-publishing trade as well as the Press. I am sure that is as foreign to British ideas as the Russian alphabet is to our school children.

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